

QL
671
Y 65
Birds

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
REPORT**

**for
1985**

**compiled by
William F. Curtis
and
John E. Dale**

DUPLICATE COPIES AVAILABLE FROM
A. J. WALLIS, 51 RED SCAR LANE, SCARBOROUGH, YO12 5RH
PRICE £2.50

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Ornithological Section

Officers for 1985

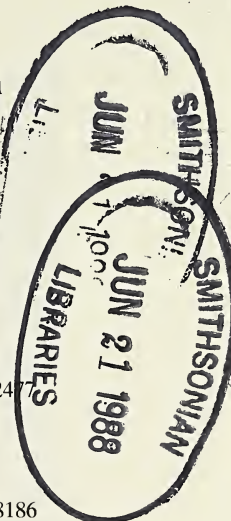
Chairman of the Ornithological Section: Dr A. H. V. Smith, Sheffield
Hon. Secretary: M. Densley, Rotherham

Reports Committee:

Chairman: J. R. Mather, 44 Aspin Lane, Knaresborough. Tel. 042 386 2775
Hon. Secretary: A. J. Wallis, 51 Red Scar Lane, Scarborough. Tel. 0723 361657
Joint Editors: W. F. Curtis and J. E. Dale

Vice-County Recorders:

V.C. 61: W. F. Curtis, Farm Cottage, Church Lane, Atwick, Driffield. Tel. 0964 53247
V.C. 62: R. H. Appleby, 38 Tennyson Road, Scarborough. Tel. 0723 363941
V.C. 63: J. Lunn, 12 Kenwood Close, Stairfoot, Barnsley. Tel. 0226 283465
V.C. 64: S. P. Singleton, 61 Parkland Drive, Leeds LS6 4PP. Tel. 0532 682473
V.C. 65: R. Temple, 1 Garth Meadow, High Green, Catterick Village. Tel. 0748 818186



Report for 1985 Edited by William F. Curtis and John E. Dale

During 1985 286 species were reliably recorded within the County of which 137 were proved to have bred. Of the scarcer breeding birds Goshawk and Peregrine show signs of a slow increase though interference by man is still causing concern. Goosander is slowly extending its range though is thought to have been shot out in one area. Ruddy Duck continues to increase and spread. Sparrowhawk is still increasing and Merlin maintains a tenuous hold in certain areas. Ringed Plover continues its spread into inland habitats. Two, perhaps three pairs of Black-tailed Godwit bred. Little Tern, for long confined to one site, was predated twice by foxes and thus had a poor season. Snow Goose and Barnacle Goose, which will mainly be of captive origin, both bred although the latter was unsuccessful. Garganey, Pintail, Honey Buzzard, Ruff and Fieldfare may have bred.

Four species new to the County appeared during 1985. A Pine Bunting was at Knaresborough on 6th April, a Collared Flycatcher at Filey on 21st and 22nd May, a Needle-tailed Swift at Fairburn on 27th May, and a Marsh Sandpiper at Spurn on 21st August.

The highest counts ever recorded in Yorkshire for Manx Shearwater, Shag, Eider, Smew and Turnstone, and the highest this century for Pomarine, Arctic and Long-tailed Skuas.

Red-throated Divers were in good numbers at Flamborough during the first two months, though the wintering numbers of Great Crested Grebes in Bridlington Bay were again lower than normal. Red-necked and Slavonian Grebes were in evidence along the coast during the first three months. Shags at Flamborough on 1st January reached a new County high, whilst Eiders at the same location on 19th was likewise the highest recorded. A large influx of Smew during January, many of which remained into February, included a concentration of 21 at Broomfleet on 23rd January which constituted a third new high. A Great Shearwater at Flamborough on 9th January, whilst the Tophill Low Ring-necked Duck was in residence for the 9th consecutive year. 173 Goosander at Eccup Res. was second highest ever for the County — when will they return to Hornsea Mere? Other January highlights included a Cetti's Warbler at Blacktoft Sands on 11th, seen on a few other dates into March, an Arctic Redpoll at Knaresborough from 26th to 3rd February, and two Avocets at Spurn on 30th.

Good numbers of Redpoll at several sites in the early months particularly during February, whilst Bewick's Swans on the Lower Derwent peaked at 140, and 89 Whooper Swans were at Fairburn Ings. 8,000 Wigeon on the Derwent Ings on 17th was the highest ever total there, and a Teal of the Neararctic race was at Fairburn Ings on 16th. An Arctic Redpoll at Old Denaby from 18th February.

A very early Wheatear was at Filey on 4th March, and still there when a Cory's Shearwater passed the Brigg on 9th. Whooper Swans are still increasing on the Lower

Derwent and peaked at 94 during March. Two Great Grey Shrikes were located at the month-end as the first Chiffchaffs and Ring Ouzels arrived. An American Wigeon appeared at Filey on 31st, and was then seen at Tophill Low from 12th April to 6th May and on the Lower Derwent from 28th May occasionally to 9th June. A Red Kite over Harrogate on 26th March, and others at Muker on 6th and Grindale on 13th April.

Black-throated Divers were evident along the coast during April with nine at Spurn on 6th. On that date one keen observer located a male Pine Bunting at Knaresborough Ringing Station, a new bird for the County, and on 22nd a Little Bunting was at the same site, yet another new bird at this inland observatory. A modest arrival of Black Redstarts and Firecrests at coastal sites during the month, but more unusual was a Subalpine Warbler at Spurn on 17th April, and another was in the same area on 30th May. The first of five Alpine Swifts during the year was over Carlton Marsh on 3rd April, and Great Grey Shrikes were at Spurn and Wentworth early in the month. A Black Kite on 19th was a first for Spurn, and three Black-necked Grebes were at Hornsea Mere on 20th. Single Cranes at Cayton on 24th and Tophill Low from 28th to 30th, and a Spoonbill at Blacktoft Sands on 30th and 1st May. The roost of Turnstones on the high tide at Filey on 8th was estimated at 900 to 1,000 constituting the highest ever count in Yorkshire. 120 Ruff at one location on the Derwent and 92 were at another.

The cold wet spring resulted in poor breeding results for many species: Great Crested Grebes reared less than 60 young from about 112 pairs, and Bearded Tits had poor results with early broods. The male Little Bittern returned to Potteric Carr on 19th departing on 29th obviously disillusioned by the weather. A Little Egret which arrived the same day was no doubt the one seen at Fairburn Ings on 24th. A Black Stork flying north-west at Spurn on 10th was seen to turn south. The only Red-crested Pochards were two males at Fairburn on 17th, and one there on 27th. A Lesser Kestrel was reported at Flamborough on 12th, and a White-tailed Eagle at Spurn on 31st. A Corncrake was calling in the Lower Derwent on 13th quite a rarity these days. A few scarce waders were reported during the month, with two Broad-billed Sandpipers at Saltend from 22nd to 29th and a third on 27th. A Kentish Plover at Kilnsea on 17th and 18th moved to Spurn on 19th and remained until 22nd. An Avocet there on 29th moved west to Patrington on 30th and stayed to 1st June. Peak passage of Grey Plovers at Cherry Cobb on 19th when 595 were counted. An interesting month for vagrant and rare passerines with a record influx of Bluethroats, mainly along the coast commencing on 8th and peaking on 15th May. Good numbers of Red-backed Shrikes and Wrynecks during the same period, whilst scarcer visitors included Rustic Buntings at Filey on 11th and Spurn on 12th; Ortolan Buntings at Flamborough on 13th and Spurn on 15th, with a Marsh Warbler at the latter site on the same day, and also on 15th at Flamborough two Grey-headed Wagtails and 135 Wheatears. A very interesting find was a Red-throated Pipit on 20th May well inland at Rother Valley Country Park on the Derbyshire border. Even more unusual were two additions to the County list. A Collared Flycatcher obliged many well behaved observers at Filey on 21st and 22nd, and a Needle-tailed Swift, the sixth for Britain, obliged rather fewer people as it fed over Fairburn Ings for a short spell on 27th May. A total of 5,340 of the three common hirundine species were over Hornsea Mere on 27th May in an otherwise rather poor spring for this family.

June was relatively quiet with Flamborough having two interesting sea-birds a Little Shearwater on 13th and a Caspian Tern on 16th. A Red Kite was seen in the south-west on four dates from 2nd to 23rd. Spurn had a Golden Oriole on 4th and Marsh Warbler on 11th, and Filey had another interesting visitor with the year's second Red-throated Pipit from 12th to 14th. An Ortolan Bunting at Fairburn Ings on 9th was unusual for this inland reserve.

Shearwater species appeared in numbers during July, with a Cory's at Flamborough on 8th and two on 31st. Great at Flamborough on 31st and Little on 9th, with Manx reaching 1,628 on 31st being the highest ever Yorkshire count. Also on 31st July ten birds of the Western Mediterranean race of Manx. A Storm Petrel on 14th made it a good month for pelagics at the headland. A good influx of Siskins and Crossbills commenced in late June, with the highest counts at widespread localities during July. Alpine Swifts at Spurn on 6th and Flamborough on 28th July, and another near Barnsley on 22nd August. Another Corncrake, near Richmond this time, first heard on 14th July and last heard on 17th August. The first of two Pectoral Sandpipers at Kilnsea on 21st July last seen on 27th, and a second there

from 24th to 30th August. An influx of Green Sandpipers resulted in a long series of records from Tophill Low with more than 15 almost daily from 9th July to early September peaking at 27 on 21st August. The first of four Ring-billed Gulls of the year was at Filey on 25th July.

Scarcer passerines during August were few and mainly located in the Spurn area, with Serin and Red-backed Shrike on 1st; Aquatic Warbler at Kilnsea on 10th; Red-backed Shrike and Oortolan Bunting on 24th; Barred Warbler on 25th, and an Icterine Warbler at the month-end. Cory's Shearwaters were recorded on six days in the month whilst Manx Shearwaters continued to be present in large numbers. Scarce waders were reported from several locations including Yorkshire's first Marsh Sandpiper at Spurn on 21st, and second Semi-palmated Sandpiper at Kilnsea on 13th; White-rumped Sandpiper at Kilnsea on 7th moving to Spurn on 8th, and another at Blacktoft Sands on 28th remaining until 14th September, and a Kentish Plover at Flamborough on 12th. Of the not so rare Curlew peaked at 3,750 at Cherry Cobb on 31st, and Curlew Sandpipers were reported from several locations along the Humber this influx continuing into September, with 107 at Blacktoft Sands and 67 at Saltend, and lesser counts elsewhere. The highest recorded daily total of Arctic Skuas this century was reported on 26th August.

Large numbers of Long-tailed Skuas commenced in August and continued through into October. Pomarine Skuas were present during the latter half of August, though no indications of the very high numbers which came during October and November, again the highest counts this century, with a wide distribution to inland sites particularly on 10th November. Counts were high during November along the whole of the east coast of Britain, but Pomarine Skuas also occurred along the south coast to Cornwall and at many other inland locations.

Two other rare visitors in August were White-winged Black Tern at Fairburn on 18th, and Ring-billed Gull at Flamborough on 31st.

96 blue phase Fulmars at Flamborough on 8th September, with Cory's Shearwater at Hornsea on 2nd and Great Shearwater at Flamborough on 13th. A Leach's Petrel called at several locations in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 on 17th and 18th, and may have been the bird seen at Saltend on 21st. The large flock of Golden Plovers at Cherry Cobb reached 8,050 on 22nd remaining high to the year-end, with 5,300 there on 15th December. Little Stints at Blacktoft Sands increased from 44 on 30th to 72 on 2nd October, and another White-rumped Sandpiper was there from 26th September to 11th October. Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Kilnsea on 18th and Blacktoft Sands on 22nd and 24th September. Passage of Ruff peaked at 156 at Blacktoft Sands and 105 at Cherry Cobb. September was not exceptional for scarce passerines but of interest were a Tawny Pipit at Saltend on 21st and a Melodious Warbler at Flamborough on 22nd, on which date a considerable influx of Yellow-browed Warblers commenced that continued to 28th October involving a total of at least 56 individuals spread through five locations, including one inland at Huddersfield. As with the spring influx of Bluethroats this movement was widely recorded along the east coast, but also as far west as Ireland and the Scilly Isles.

Black-throated Divers were frequent along the coast during October with 12 at Flamborough on 13th, and two Great Shearwaters were there on 22nd. 240 Cormorants on 13th was the highest ever count for that headland. Single Leach's Petrels at Spurn on 12th and Eccup Res. on 15th. Gadwall numbered 256 at Hornsea Mere on 6th the second highest ever count for Yorkshire. A White-tailed Eagle flew north-east over Blacktoft Sands on 26th, and on the following day attempted to be seen by as many observers as possible for after passing Filey northbound it was seen at Scarborough and then as far north as Boulby Cliffs in Cleveland, at Filey again at midday followed by Flamborough and Aldbrough, and finally in the late afternoon at two localities on the Lincolnshire coast. Numbers of Little Gulls were not high with a peak of 378 off Hornsea on 29th. Single Black Guillemots at Flamborough on 22nd and 31st. The last Alpine Swift for the year was over Robin Hood's Bay on 5th. Again a fairly quiet month for vagrant passerines, although there was a small influx of Black Redstarts from 19th to the month-end during which period Firecrests were also in evidence; single Richard's Pipits were at Flamborough on 20th, Sheffield on 21st and Kilnsea on 31st; there were also isolated records of Barred Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Little Bunting, and somewhat rarer a Dusky Warbler at Flamborough on 26th. That date saw the peak arrival of Blackbird, Redwing, Fieldfare and Brambling along the coast with

increasing numbers at inland sites up to the month-end. Also on 26th October a Shore Lark was an unexpected find at Bransdale. Four Pallas's Warblers at Flamborough on various dates between 22nd and 29th, and one at Kilnsea on 24th and 25th.

Apart from the Pomarine Skua movement in November the last two months were relatively quiet. Wintering Rough-legged Buzzards took up residence in the Gouthwaite, Bransdale and Langsett areas. Little Auks were widespread though not in the high numbers of the previous two years. Single Ring-billed Gulls at Hull Docks on 23rd and Eccup Res. on 24th November. Two single adult Ross's Gulls at Flamborough on 6th and 17th November respectively. Three Red-necked Phalaropes at Flamborough on 1st, and 5,700 Golden Plovers at Fairburn Ings on 26th November. A Woodlark at Spurn for two weeks from 1st November, and a scattering of Waxwings at nine locations during the two months but no real influx. Shore Larks remain scarce, and relative to the 1970s so do Great Grey Shrikes with only five located in the last two months. An influx of Redpolls of the nominate race noted in particular at Spurn from 20th to 24th November, and appeared later in small numbers at inland sites, but were less numerous than earlier in the year when they formed a good proportion of the February flocks. An Arctic Redpoll and others showing characteristics of that species were at Spurn in late November. 76 Snow Buntings at Filey on 16th November was the largest flock reported.

The herd of Whooper Swans at Fairburn Ings reached 121 on 30th December. A high count of 154 Goosanders at Castle Howard Lake on 15th December was the highest anywhere in England during the month. A Teal of the Neararctic race at Tophill Low on 26th and 27th, whilst on 26th both Sooty Shearwater and Pomarine Skua were seen off Hornsea. Overwintering Blackcap and Chiffchaff were much scarcer during December than in the first two months of the year. Vast numbers of Skylarks were in the Barmston area on 28th December perhaps up to 5,000 birds. Finches and buntings were not reported in large flocks from any locality in the last two months all flock sizes being of less than 500 birds.

Recorders for 1986

Due to occupational pressures and travelling problems Jeff Lunn has resigned from his position as recorder for V.C. 63. The Reports Committee and observers from his area extend their grateful thanks for filling the position so ably. Having been recorder for V.C. 61 for nine years Bill Curtis will be taking over as Editor for 1986, and John Dale having held that position for six years will again become recorder for V.C. 63. The committee welcomes George Bennett who takes over as recorder for V.C. 61, and thus returns after a period of absence from the County to add to the strength of the sea-watchers along Bridlington Bay. 1986 and 1987 records should be sent to recorders as listed on page one except for:
V.C. 61: G. R. Bennett, Kings Field, Strawberry Gardens, Hornsea. Tel. 0964 532251
V.C. 63: J. E. Dale, 158 Lindley Moor Road, Lindley Moor, Huddersfield. Tel. 0484 652453

British Birds Rarities Committee

All records published in this report of birds of species that are subject to consideration by the BBRC, but have not been accepted by that committee have been examined and accepted by the YNU Reports Committee, as have a number of records of birds seen at Flamborough Head that have not yet been submitted to the BBRC. Because of the agreed difficulties of establishing watertight criteria for the field identification of Arctic Redpoll, *Carduelis hornemannii* a number of doubtful records of this species are included in the report as an easy reference to facilitate the almost inevitable future research into this problem.

The Reports Committee thanks local recorders and the many observers throughout the County who have submitted their records to the YNU, and urges them to continue to do so promptly as we endeavour to catch up on the backlog of records by relatively earlier publication of the 1986 and 1987 Reports.

As retiring Editor John Dale thanks his committee colleagues and all others who have supported him during the past six years and asks that Bill Curtis be given the same assistance.

William F. Curtis and John E. Dale, January 1988

Classified List

All the rare and unusual species in this report have been considered by the Reports Committee and found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers, and have also been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee where applicable unless otherwise stated. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K. H., *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1973 and 1977). B.O.U. 1977.

Redthroated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Reported from the coast during every month with more birds during the early part of the year than later: 176 were counted off Flamborough on 17th January with 136 on 19th; 254 recorded there on 16th February followed by 139 on 17th. Numbers at this location decreased during March, with 35 on 24th as the monthly maximum, though further south at Hornsea the highest totals for the year were reported during this month, with 72 north on 8th; 77 on 11th and 98 on 15th. Both Filey and Spurn reported low numbers during these months, with 53 during February at Filey being the highest count there whilst at Spurn most birds were reported as divers, and would be mainly this species, 68 on 2nd April being the maximum.

Small numbers along the coast during the summer months with four at Hornsea and seven at Flamborough on 1st June; six at Spurn on 6th July and five at Hornsea on 14th. Numbers slowly increased during August though not until 13th September, at Spurn, were double figures reported, in this case 40 divers whilst at Flamborough 40 of this species were counted on 15th. A further increase during October with 70 at Spurn on 29th and 73 the following day; 68 were at Flamborough on 12th and 50 on 19th: 42 at Spurn on 1st November was the last high count there for the year, while Flamborough had 103 on 16th and 114 on 17th. December numbers low all along the coast.

Inland records showed an increase on the previous year with a single oiled bird on the Ouse near York on four days during the first week of February. A single bird at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 6th January; three flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 11th January with a single bird also to the west there on 10th February, possibly this same bird arriving at Winterset Res. on this same date remaining overnight, whilst a single bird was reported from Hewenden Res. on 12th. Two birds flew over Pugney's G.P. on 9th. Nearer the coast single birds were reported from Hornsea Mere on 20th and 24th February, with birds at Tophill Low Res. on 23rd January, 28th and 29th. A single at Broomfleet Ponds on 11th and 12th February. Few inland occurrences during the latter months with a single bird at Winterset Res. on 16th November no doubt being the bird which appeared at Blackmoorfoot Res. some thirty minutes later. Five off Saltend, Hull on 16th November.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Many reports of one to two birds along the coast particularly in V.C. 61. During the early months three or more birds were reported from Bridlington Bay with four on 7th January (PS) with three at Flamborough the same day, three to the west off Saltend, Hull on 17th January (SLJ); three to the north off Hornsea on 10th March (GRB) on which date four were noted displaying off Filey Brigg, four north at Hornsea on 15th with two north and a further two on the sea there on 27th (GRB). Nine on the sea at Spurn on 6th April. Three off Flamborough on 15th June, with two there on 11th July.

An influx noted along the Holderness coast during October with one to five birds seen regularly at Spurn, totalling 27 birds; 12 off Flamborough on 13th whilst the previous day four had been off Hornsea, three at Flamborough on 23rd; eight there on 26th and six the following day, (PAL:GRB *et al*); three at Flamborough on 13th November, with three there again on 16th on which date three flew west past Saltend, Hull (SLJ): four at Flamborough on 17th, three on 19th when four were reported flying east at Saltend, Hull (SLJ): five at Flamborough on 24th thereafter numbers decreased, with single birds on three days during December at Flamborough, on two days at Hornsea, and on single days at Spurn, Saltend and Barmston.

Away from the coast a single bird flew west at Blacktoft Sands with the Red-throated Divers on 11th January, and was most likely the bird which arrived at Winterset Res. later that morning (AG:JMT). The bird of 1984 at Whinney Gill Res. near Skipton remained until 8th January; a single bird at Thrybergh Res. was present from 9th to 17th January (WD *et al*); with a single staying at Pugney's G.P. from 25th February until 8th May.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Single birds were reported during January from Flamborough on 2nd, 15th and 27th (PAL); from Sewerby on 18th and Cornelian Bay on 22nd (RHA), during February from Cornelian Bay (MFr) and Fraisthorpe (GRB) on 1st; Flamborough on 13th with two birds there on 16th (PAL): March saw birds at Jackson's Bay on 1st (MFr) and Flamborough the following day, Burniston on 17th (MFr) and Grimston on 26th (TI). A single bird at Flamborough on 18th April, with two there on 17th May, and a single on 1st June (PAL).

Single at Spurn on 28th August, with two at Flamborough on 4th September before becoming more numerous in October, with single birds at Spurn on 11th; 27th and 31st: Fraisthorpe on 19th (SML): Flamborough on 12th, 13th, 17th, 20th, 23rd and 29th (PAL *et al*) and from Filey on 13th (SC); 19th (SC, HJW, PMS) and 29th (FN). In November two were at Flamborough on 3rd, with singles there on 5th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 17th and 20th; from Filey on 1st (PMS) 2nd; 15th (MGR): and 22nd (PJD), Hornsea on 7th and 13th (GRB). A single bird at Saltend, Hull on 16th could have been the same reported passing down river on 19th (SLJ). Two birds at Filey on 2nd December (PJD).

Further north a single bird at Scarborough on 28th October (RHA), Burniston on 17th November (MFr); a juvenile found dead at Scarborough on 26th November (RHA), with an immature there on 30th, and a single on 3rd December, and a juvenile there on 29th (RHA, RNH). Away from the coast, a single at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 14th February (CH), with single birds at Chelker Res. from 12th to 14th November (MCS: JCD *et al*), and a different bird there on 7th December (FAW). Single bird at Bolton-on-Swale on 19th December.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

Addition to 1983 Report: A single bird on the sea at Bridlington on 11th December (GED:SB:DB:EAM).

This record is still being considered by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

In V.C. 61 bred at Broomfleet Ponds with six pairs rearing 10 young; Grimston, two pairs; Lower Derwent, several pairs and Driffild. Possibly bred at Tophill Low Res. and near Saltend, Hull. Quite widely distributed with an increase in numbers noted in autumn; four at Kilnsea Ponds on 28th October had increased to 18 on 30th, whilst the maximum counts at Broomfleet Ponds and Tophill Low Res. were 20 on 7th September, and 12 on 29th November respectively. Three pairs raised at least seven young at Strensall Common in V.C. 62, with two pairs at Brandsby otherwise counts in that V.C. were small. At least 45 pairs bred in V.C. 63, with at least one third of these being in the Wath/Broomhill area where 44 young were reared. Maximum counts were 28 at Thrybergh on 24th September: 25 at Wath Ings on 17th March, and 49 on 21st July; 26 at Winterset Res. on 15th October, and 26 at Scout Dyke Res. on 7th September.

Reported at 37 localities in V.C. 64 with proven breeding at 10, consisting of 33 pairs rearing at least 76 young. The principal sites being Fairburn Ings and Mickletown Ings, with 14 pairs and 29+ young at the former, and 10 pairs and 23 young at the latter. During the very severe weather of January many birds forsook the flashes and ponds for rivers. Largest concentrations reported were 41 at Fairburn Ings on 4th September; 23 at Mickletown on 31st August and 22 at Farnham on 22nd September.

14 recorded at Bolton-on-Swale on 16th August where also reported to have bred.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

The wintering flock in Bridlington Bay was again low with maximum counts of 59 on 12th January and 25 on 19th October.

Breeding success throughout the County was very low owing to both wet and cold during the spring: V.C. 61 had some 20 pairs which reared only 12 young, whilst no breeding was reported from V.C. 62: V.C. 63 had at least 65 pairs with only 50 per cent of the pairs raising young, V.C. 64 had an even more disastrous season, with only 16 young being reared from 26 pairs at 15 sites. One pair raised two young in V.C. 65.

Generally numbers throughout the region decreased greatly during the severe weather of the early part of the year, many birds moving onto ice free rivers or the coast: 30 were at Winterset Res. on 1st January though by the end of the month almost all had departed; Spring peaks were 26 at Wentworth on 11th March; up to 36 at Castle Howard during the early part of March; 29 at Treeton Dyke on 6th May; 48 at Winterset Res. on 16th and 17th March increasing to 52 by 17th April; 26 at Eccup Res. on 8th March, with 17 at Fairburn Ings on 9th, and 16 at Knotford Nook on 18th.

Autumn maxima being 32 at Winterset Res., 22 at Blackmoorfoot Res., and 17 at Wentworth on 21st September. 22 were still present at Winterset Res. on 23rd November though almost all had departed by early December: in V.C. 64 the situation was similar with 39 at Eccup on 3rd August, and 11 at Hay-a-Park on 1st October being the only reports over 10. As with other localities most birds had left by early December.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Up to four were present at Filey from 1st January until 6th April; four at Flamborough on 18th January, with five there the following day, whilst two were reported from Tophill Low Res. from 17th to 19th January. Single birds at Scarborough on 12th January; Saltend on 18th and Scarborough on 21st March. Away from the coast in V.C. 61 single birds were reported during the first three months of the year from the Market Weighton Canal; Hornsea Mere; Broomfleet Ponds and Catwick G.P. A single bird was on the River Ouse at Fulford on 26th January, and what was undoubtedly the same bird at Poppleton from 26th to 28th. A single on the Lower Derwent from 10th to 17th February. Single bird at Winterset Res. on 10th January was considered to be the bird reported from Pugney's G.P. which was present there from 11th to 18th January. A single bird on the River Trent at Blacktoft Sands on 12th February.

Two summer plumaged birds were reported from Filey between 8th and 10th July, a single at Burniston on 21st, at Filey on 23rd and 26th, and two at Flamborough on 26th. Single on the sea at Spurn on 10th August.

Fewer birds reported during the latter months of the year, with single birds at Flamborough on 10th and 19th September; 13th, 20th, 24th and 26th October. Three flew offshore at Hornsea on 1st November, whilst a single bird was present at Filey on the same day, two at Hornsea on 2nd, a single at Flamborough on 5th, two at Filey on 13th, and two at Flamborough on 16th; singles at Filey on 15th and Flamborough on 20th, with two there on 28th December.

The only record away from the coast was a single bird at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 14th and 15th September.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Present in Filey Bay from the start of the year until 24th March, single birds generally being involved though two were present on 26th January and again between 15th and 18th March with three on the 16th (SC:PJD:PMS). Two reported from Scarborough South Bay on 20th January (RNH), with three birds in the South Bay/Cornelian Bay area on 22nd (RHA). Single bird at Flamborough on 19th January; at Scarborough on 1st February, Flamborough on 18th February, Scarborough on 1st and 3rd March (MFr; RHA), with two at Burniston on 7th (MFr), and single there on 17th. Further south along the coast a single bird was present at Grimston on 1st February (TI). Inland, birds were reported from Tophill Low Res. with a single bird on 5th February, and one in summer plumage from 12th to 14th April (RL:PMS *et al*); one on the River Derwent near Wheldrake Ings from 8th to 21st January (PP): an adult in summer plumage at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 25th April (MLD); one at Broomfleet Ponds on 11th and 17th February, with another bird found dead there on 23rd (TAE). A sick bird at Fairburn Ings on 22nd January eventually died (HJW *et al*), and a second bird there on 17th September.

Fewer records during the latter months of the year with singles at Flamborough on 5th September, and at Eccup Res. on 8th. Two flew north at Flamborough on 29th October, whilst at Kilnsea a single bird was reported on 26th. Single birds at Flamborough on 4th November and 24th; at Hornsea Mere on 16th and 24th, with two on 17th, a single at Scarborough on 26th November, and the following day at Scalby Mills (RHA:AB). Single bird on the sea, and one to the north at Spurn on 29th October.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

In January, single birds were reported from Flamborough on 19th (PAL:JCL), and Pugney's G.P. on the same date (ADW:GC) and Southfield Res. on 25th. A single at Tophill Low Res. on 16th February was the only bird reported during that month, as was a single at Scarborough on 1st, 9th and 10th March (MFr). Reports were more widespread during April with one at Hornsea Mere on 17th (GRB), increasing to three birds on 20th (SML:IJP), and a single remaining the following day. Two birds were recorded at Fairburn Ings on 20th (GRW:ASB). A single bird off Blacktoft Sands on 10th May (AG), whilst one was present at Nosterfield G.P. from 11th to 15th (LT:PB). Two in full breeding plumage at Hornsea Mere on 18th and 19th (IJP:SML), with two at Fairburn Ings between 20th and 25th May (SPD).

Single at Hornsea Mere on 1st June (GRB).

In Autumn single birds, both immatures, were present at Fairburn Ings from 17th August to 21st September, and at Winterset Country Park from 26th August to 5th September. Two birds in summer plumage at Bolton-on-Swale on 6th August, with a single bird in winter plumage there on 10th. Single birds at Hornsea Mere on 2nd September (IJP); Flamborough on 22nd September (AMA); Thrybergh Res. on 21st October (SHH:RF), whilst two flew north off Hornsea on 29th (GRB).

A single bird at Filey on 7th December (TIC:JAP).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

No comments on the breeding status of this species from the cliffs of Flamborough Head or further north were received. The highest counts along the coast were from Flamborough where 2665 were reported on 27th January with 2820 on 16th February; 5050 on 21st April; 3500 on 9th September and 4030 on 23rd November. Filey Brigg reported movements of up to 800 per hour during the summer months though the duration of such movements was not recorded. 1791 flew north off Hornsea on 9th September, whilst further south at Spurn numbers were low with up to 300 reported on several days during August being the heaviest passage there.

13 reported from the estuary at Sunk Island on 17th August, whilst a single bird was seen flying west along the River Ouse at Blacktoft Sands on 5th June. Inland records were few with single birds recorded at Tophill Low Res. on 16th March; Fairburn Ings on 31st May and from Newtondale on 16th June. Blue phased birds were reported from all the above coastal locations, with as usual the highest counts being recorded at Flamborough where 96 were reported on 8th September, eight on the 9th and seven on 17th, with 18 the following day.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

A single bird at Filey Brigg on the rather early date of 9th March (PMS:SC:JAP). Singles at Flamborough on 16th June; 8th July with two there on 31st and a single on 1st August (PAL), a single at Spurn on 5th, Flamborough on 9th (PAL:JCL), at Spurn on 16th, Scarborough (TME) and Flamborough (PAL:AMA:JCL) on 17th; Flamborough again on 26th (AMA), with the last bird of the year off Hornsea on 2nd September (GRB).

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

A single bird off Flamborough on 7th January (PAL) was an unusual date though two were recorded from this location on the same date the previous year. Single birds were also reported from there on 31st July and 13th September (PAL), with two on 22nd October and further single birds on 29th October; 7th and 16th November (AMA:PAL), whilst a single flew north off Hornsea on 24th November (GRB).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

A poor year by recent standards though birds were reported both very early and late during the year.

A single bird flew south off Filey Brigg on 10th February (HJW). The first of the summer being reported flying south off Spurn Point on 8th July, with a single off Filey the following day thereafter small numbers were reported from all the well watched coastal locations, with 14 at Flamborough on 30th and 20 on 31st. Up to five birds were occasionally recorded at Spurn during August; all flying north whilst at Flamborough this species was reported almost daily with 24 on 5th; 72 on 26th and 59 on 27th; the highest count of this month at Filey being 11 on 5th. September saw slightly higher counts with 88 off Flamborough on 7th and 85 there the next day; Filey recording 13 and 27 on these respective dates. 41 were at Flamborough on 9th with 46 on 14th. None recorded during October until the 12th, when 13 flew north off Spurn and 40 were reported from Flamborough; small numbers recorded throughout the remainder of the month with a high of 34 at Flamborough on 29th when six were off Spurn. Six at Flamborough on 2nd November, five the following day, whilst single birds were recorded from Spurn on 10th; from Flamborough on 13th and 23rd, and Spurn again on 30th. Eight flew north off Hornsea on 26th December (WRC, GRB:BP).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

A single bird to the north off Scarborough on the early date of 26th January (RNH), after which the next records were of three at Flamborough, and a single at Filey on 20th April. The first movement of the year came on 8th June when 79 were off Flamborough after which birds were reported almost daily during the remainder of the month. July saw 110 at Flamborough on the 18th; 125 on 21st, with 611 the following day when Filey had their highest count of the year of 711. 1243 were off Flamborough on 23rd, but only seven were seen there the following day. 428 were reported from Filey on 26th, when 27 flew south off Scarborough during 30 minutes in the morning, and 176 during one hour in late afternoon, though only 86 were recorded from Flamborough. 309 were seen at Flamborough on 27th with 1628 on the 31st. This is the highest count ever recorded in Yorkshire and was not seen to the same degree further south with 56 off Hornsea and 126 at Spurn. 458 were reported at Spurn on 5th August whilst at Flamborough 1359 were present the following day, with 538 on 10th; 324 on 16th; 656 on 17th and 640 on the 26th, Spurn having 60 on the 27th. The last really large movement of the year took place on 4th September with 684 off Flamborough, and 56 at Spurn though 84 were at the former location on 7th. Small numbers during October with 35 at Flamborough on 12th as the highest count of the month. Generally single figure counts during November except two at Spurn on 2nd, when 11 were counted off Flamborough and 24 at the latter location the following day. A single bird was reported from Filey on 19th December.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Balearic race *P.p. mauretanicus* were recorded at Spurn on 3rd August with three there on 16th; from Filey on 25th October, with two at Hornsea on 30th July, and single birds there on 2nd; 4th and 8th September. Quite numerous at Flamborough with two on 18th April; a single on 30th July, with 10 the following day; five on 10th August and singles on 18th and 26th; two on 4th September, a single on 5th with two on 6th; three on 8th then single birds on 17th and 18th; two on 25th followed by singles on 12th, 22nd, 26th and 31st October.

Single birds showing the characteristics of the eastern Mediterranean form *P.p. yellkouan* were reported from Flamborough on 27th July (PAL); 30th July (JCL) and 19th October (PAL).

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

Single birds were seen flying north off Flamborough on 13th June (PAL:JCL) and 9th July (PAL). Neither of these records has been submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

A single bird flew to the south off Flamborough on 14th July (DGH).

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

A single bird reported flying east over Fairburn Ings on 17th September (DMC) was no doubt the bird seen at Elland G.P. on 18th, and later during the same day at Winterset Res. (SC:SD:PM). A single bird seen flying north over the marsh at Saltend (Hull) on 21st (SLJ:SB) may also have concerned this same bird. Singles to the south at Spurn on 12th October, and at Eccup Res. on 15th October which was seen to depart to the east (SPS:JDH:RLD).

Gannet *Sula bassana*

The colony at Bampton continues to increase in extent slowly and is now estimated to cover some 1500 metres. Occupied sites there originally were estimated at 687 but following a cliff fall this was later reduced to 653. These occupied sites were considered to consist of 531 probable breeding; 122 probable non-breeding with a further 83 'club' birds being present (RSPB). Coastal movements were normal with the highest counts being reported from Flamborough where low double figures were reported during January with the exception of 193 on 26th; similar counts during February with over one hundred birds on three days; 276 on 2nd March, 327 on 14th April and 351 on 21st. 277 on the 5th of May was the highest count there during that month with an increase of numbers during June to 560 on 8th, a further increase during July giving 707 on 23rd, 865 on 26th and 1069 on 27th. High numbers throughout August, 1228 on 17th; 1925 on 26th and 1735 on 31st; 861 on 4th September, with 1379 on 8th thence 500+ daily throughout the remainder of the month. Lower counts during October with 432 on 12th and 303 the following day. 95 were present on 5th November otherwise under 50 during that month and very few reported during December, with 10 on 27th as the highest for the month. Filey, Hornsea and Spurn had similar peaks though with far smaller numbers being involved; 264 at Spurn on 8th September being the highest count of the year there.

Recorded quite frequently off Saltend (Hull), with 46 on 12th May; 20 on 12th September and at least 88 there on 18th. Further up the estuary Blacktoft Sands had nine on 18th September, eight of which were reported as flying west. Five were present there on 20th.

Further inland a single first winter bird was seen flying south over Cudworth and Wath Ings before arriving at Thrybergh Res. on 5th October (KB:DMW:SHH).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Bred to the north of Filey where there were 13 occupied nests on 5th July. Highest counts along the coast were reported from Flamborough where a considerable increase was noted during August with 50 on 25th, 106 the following day and 84 on 31st. September passage peaked at 84 on 4th, 117 on 5th, 90 on 14th and 118 on 20th. Numbers reported during October were still high with 72 on 6th; 83 on 12th and the highest count ever for that location of 240 on 13th. Generally only 20 to 30 there during November though 76 were recorded on 11th after which there were no further large counts. The highest counts at Filey were during the months of October and November, whilst at Spurn numbers were highest during September and October.

The tree roost at Hornsea Mere was occupied throughout the year with a maximum count of 57 on 9th February, a little lower than in recent years. Tophill Low Res. likewise had small numbers during the year with maxima of nine on 22nd November and 27th December.

Along the estuary birds were reported throughout the year from the Hull Docks albeit generally low numbers and irregularly, but a monthly maximum of 49 in January. Further west at Blacktoft Sands a similar pattern was observed with one to six birds being normal though 15 there on 19th January.

One to three birds reported from several locations in the York area with most records falling during the spring. In V.C. 63 birds were recorded during every month with the exception of June, usually involving single birds. Reports were received from 22 sites, the largest number being four seen flying south and one to the north over Broomhill on 22nd November. A similar pattern was observed in V.C. 64 with birds being reported from 17 locations, again mainly single birds though 10 were reported from Westwood on the River Ure on 20th December. Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65 had birds until 7th June and again from 29th October with monthly maxima of 16 during January; 39 in February; 37 in March;

32 in April decreasing to three in May, and a single bird in June. Four were present by the end of October increasing to 28 in November, and 20 during December. Thornton Steward Res. had birds until 11th May and again from 30th October, with spring maximum of 19 and autumn maximum of 13. Birds showing the characteristics of the race *P.c. sinensis* were reported from Flamborough on 11 days during February to April, single birds being involved though two on 2nd March; from Hornsea Mere on one day in each month from February to May with two on 16th March; from Filey on 30th March; Hull Docks on 26th March; 4th April and 28th April. Inland a single at Gouthwaite Res. on 19th April.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Bred on the north side of Flamborough Head with minimum of 20 pairs in the vicinity of Bampton. Not proved to breed at Filey. Again high numbers at Flamborough with 1379 there on 1st January (this the highest count for both this locality and for Yorkshire). This high number had fallen to 985 on 3rd, thence to 514 on the 5th, and 80 the following day. 110 on 17th January was the only other count of note during that month. Numbers throughout February were usually under 50 though 159 on 2nd, thereafter monthly maximum counts being 90 on 9th March; 100 on 28th April; 100 on 5th May; 102 on 15th June and 140 on 28th July. Numbers increased during August, with 202 on 14th and 222 on 31st; 217 on 20th September, with 315 the following day. During October numbers counted were erratic, with a peak of 583 on 13th, 472 on 10th November being the highest count of that month, with 335 on 21st December being that monthly high. At Filey numbers were lower, with 88 during November being the highest count of the year. Further south numbers were low with the exception of Spurn Point where 47 flew south on 12th January; 54 offshore there on 13th October, and 21 on 13th November.

Regularly reported from Hull Docks during the autumn and winter, with invariably single birds involved, though two on 5th November and three the following day.

Single bird on the River Trent at Blacktoft on 14th February whilst reports from inland in V.C. 63 were above normal, with a single at Redmires Res. on 6th September. An immature with a damaged wing was present on the River Don at Doncaster from 20th September to 4th November when it was taken to the R.S.P.C.A. Single at Sprotbrough Flash on 25th November whilst two birds were seen to fly off to the south from Howden Res. on 21st December. A single bird was at Fairburn Ings on 11th June.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Singles at Maltby (dead) on 6th January; at Fairburn Ings from 12th January until 5th March (GRW *et al*); at Broomfleet on 19th January; Blacktoft Sands on 20th and Wath Ings on 27th/28th. During February single birds were reported from Hornsea Mere on 2nd, 14th and 17th (IJP); Potteric Carr on 4th/5th; Hull Docks on 16th; Winterset Res. from 16th to 19th, and Old Denaby from 17th to 20th. March produced birds at Hornsea Mere on 10th and Potteric Carr on 20th. During the latter months of the year single birds were recorded at Blacktoft Sands from 15th to 25th September, with two present on 17th; singles at Mickletown Ings on 29th September; Hornsea Mere on 2nd October; Blacktoft Sands from 18th to 23rd November, Potteric Carr from 27th November until the end of the year; Malham Tarn on 30th November; Thorne Moors on 8th December; Broomfleet on 15th (TAE), and one picked up at Treeton on 30th December which was taken to the R.S.P.C.A.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

A male returned to Potteric Carr on 19th May staying until 29th May when, possibly due to the cold wet spring, disappeared (AR *et al*).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

A single bird was at Potteric Carr on 19th May (the same day as the Little Bittern). Under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Single bird at Fairburn Ings on 23rd May (BC:GRW:HJW). Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Bred at two localities in V.C. 61; Scampston where there were c20 nests and in the lower Derwent with 14 pairs. In V.C. 62 bred at Spikers Hill, three nests, and at Ellerburn, at least nine nests. In V.C. 63 at Bretton Park with 10 nests and at two locations near Sheffield, with two pairs at one site and three' nests at the other. Nine heronries were counted in V.C. 64 with 82 nesting pairs. V.C. 65 had birds breeding at West Burton and Great Langton though no reports of numbers were received.

Away from the breeding areas concentrations of 10 or more birds were reported as follows: 14 at Wath during February, with 19 in the same area on 23rd July; 19 at Wentworth on 11th February; 10 at Castle Howard on 18th June; 20 at Denaby Ings on 4th July; 10 at Kilnsea on 4th August; 12 near Tophill Low Res. on 26th September; 17 at Lindley Wood Res. on 5th October; 15 at Blacktoft Sands on 5th November, and 14 at Gouthwaite on 25th December.

A 'white' bird was present at Potteric Carr from 12th September to the end of the year.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

A single adult was recorded at Flamborough on 13th June (PAL).

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

A single bird flew over Spurn from the Humber on 10th May, heading northwest before turning to fly off to the south (PIH). This was the first record for the Observatory and the fourth for Yorkshire.

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

The bird first reported at Airtion and Bell Busk in May 1984 successfully wintered in the area remaining until 11th April (BS *et al.*).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

A single adult was present at Blacktoft Sands on 30th April and 1st May (AG).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Had a very mixed breeding season with V.C. 61 apparently showing no change in status, whilst of 12 sites in V.C. 63 birds were unsuccessful at five. The breeding in V.C. 64 was stated to have been disastrous with none in the Harrogate or Settle areas, whilst at Fairburn Ings only six young were fledged from 12 pairs. This was due entirely to human interference with six nests being robbed; two deserted and another shot while sitting, the body and eggs being taken. A pair at Otley had seven eggs stolen. However at eight other sites 33 young were reared. Breeding in V.C. 65 unchanged. Winter numbers were low with c50 at Fairburn Ings being the largest herd, whilst up to 19 were present on the Lower Derwent during the first three months of the year.

The moulting flocks at Hornsea Mere and Fairburn Ings reached 142 and 157 respectively during early August. Away from these two locations the highest counts in the latter months of the year were 30 at Mickletown Ings on 3rd November; otherwise 13 at Pugney's G.P. on 22nd December, and 15 along the Lower Derwent during October were the only counts of double figures.

Spurn Point reported unprecedented numbers throughout the year with seven on 31st May, and up to eight during October.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

The monthly maxima along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas were 83 in January; 140 during February; 104 in March with 45 on 30th March being the last large flock though a single bird was present from 11th to 15th April, and another from 28th to 30th. Records were received from several other locations during the early months, with 23 at Fairburn Ings on 5th January on which date 10 flew west at Blacktoft. 10 present at Cherry Cobb and occasionally at Thorngumbald between 20th to 27th January. 10 at Winterset Res. on 20th February, with 11 flying east at Blacktoft Sands on 4th March.

25 were reported from Broomfleet on 2nd and 3rd March whilst a similar number were recorded at Leighton Res. on 5th. 47 flew northwest over Thrybergh Res. on 21st (RF) whilst 52 swans (considered to be of this species) flew north over Broomhill Flash the same day (NWA).

The first returning bird was reported from the Lower Derwent on 10th October where numbers built up to six on 20th thence 31 in November, and 67 by December. 11 were at Thrybergh Res. on 16th November, with 19 there on 18th. Parties of 26 and six were reported flying west at Worsborough on 16th November. 13 were on the Humber off Saltend (Hull) on 2nd December; 19 to west over Wentworth on 12th, with 21+ at Gateforth on 15th. Smaller numbers were reported from many localities during these latter three months.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Monthly maxima in the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area were 41 in January; 58 in February; 94 in March with 22 on 2nd April and two the following day the last. Fairburn Ings had low numbers during January with 34 as the highest count, but during February the herd increased to 89 thence during March up to 60 were present. Numbers then declined to leave two birds at the end of April; one of these being from the injured pair present since 1974, the other a sick bird. The injured bird died on 6th May whilst the sick individual disappeared on 2nd June. Apart from these two flocks the highest number elsewhere in V.C. 61 was 11 at Easington on 16th February, which remained until at least 13th March; only one report of double figures in V.C. 62 that being 18 flying north at Rievaulx on 26th March. V.C. 63 had birds at 16 locations until 2nd April, mainly consisting of one to eight birds, though 11 flew north over Rotherham on 11th January and 59 to the north over Bradford on 21st March. One to 10 birds were reported from 10 sites in V.C. 64, with up to 14 in the Ribble Valley; 15 at Mickletown Ings on 12th January and 22 there on 9th March. Regular at Bolton-on-Swale until 17th April, with maximum count of 25 otherwise only small numbers in V.C. 65.

The first bird of the autumn was on the Lower Derwent on 10th October with one at Broomfleet on 12th. The first influx appears to have been on the 26th/27th with four on the Lower Derwent on 26th; 11 off Flamborough on 26th, with three to the south at Tophill Low Res., and seven south at Hornsea Mere on the same day. The Derwent flock had increased to 34 by 6th December, whilst that at Fairburn, after the first on 21st October, had increased to c50 being present throughout much of November and December though a rapid increase to 99 by 28th December and 121 on 30th. This flock frequently flighted to the Birkin/Byram Park area to feed with maxima of 33 on 17th February and 54 on 28th December. Elsewhere numbers were low apart from a herd at Bolton-on-Swale, present from 4th November increasing to 22. 17 were reported flying over Gouthwaite Res. on 16th November, with 10 in the Ribble Valley during most of December. 11 to the south over Thrybergh Res. on 16th November. 10 at Semerwater on 9th November.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

A single bird at Kilnsea on 5th January (KR) with 13 near Rudston on 11th (SLJ:PMS); three, considered to belong to the Russian race were present at Broomfleet from 11th January to 2nd March (TAE), and would no doubt be the three birds reported from Blacktoft on 26th/27th January and 24th February (AG). Two, an adult plus immature, were present on the Lower Derwent from 10th to 24th March (DW), whilst six flew to the west at Cherry Cobb on 17th March (SML). A single bird that flew east at Saltend (Hull) on 4th April later returned west (SML).

Single at Flamborough on 19th October (AG:PAL), single present at Barmston from 19th December to 28th (SML). Two at Broomfleet on 28th December (TAE) on which date six were reported from Flamborough (AMA).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Observations from the Humber Wildfowl Refuge were only received until 1st March. 180 were recorded there on 6th January, that being the maximum count for that month; during February usually over 100 present with 140 on 3rd, 270 on 5th, 300 between 6th and 9th, 250 on 12th, 260 on 16th, 190 on 26th, 300 on 27th and 280 on 1st March (TED). 150 were

reported from Broomfleet on 9th October, with 85 there on 11th and 13th (TAE). 120 flew south at Filey on 19th October whilst 100 flew west at Spurn Point on the same day. 65 flying east at Saltend (Hull) on 18th November with 100 at Broomfleet on 27th. 230 seen over Gilberdyke heading for the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 27th December on which date 15 flew east, 200 west and 50 to the south at Saltend. 50 reported flying south offshore at Spurn on 1st December. 10 were reported from Tophill Low Res. on 11th October increasing to 51 on 15th and 16th; 55 on 17th and 18th thence to 54 on 19th and 53 on 20th. Further inland 200 flew southeast over Cawood on 27th November, with 120 to the south over Bishopthorpe on 12th December. 200 east over Winterset Res. on 1st January. 320 south over South Elmsall on 30th; 220 over Fairburn on 3rd February; c700 over Thrybergh on 5th February; 100 over Glasshouses on 5th March, and 130 over the Ribble valley on 12th. During the latter months of the year; 300+ over Fairburn on 27th November, whilst during the early to mid part of December there was an obvious movement with c3600 being reported as passing through the Sheffield area between 7th and 16th. This movement was also noted in other localities, particularly on the 8th when c500 were seen over Leeds; 250 over Bretton Park; 700 to southeast over Thrybergh, consisting of five skeins in five minutes and 300 to southeast over Warmsworth. 230 seen over Pateley Bridge on 11th and 173 over Hay-a-Park on 12th. A single bird remained throughout the year at Hornsea Mere.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Most of the records came from the coast or the Derwent valley, with birds present at Hornsea Mere from 1st January through to 13th April, during February and early March there were 19 in total of which four were of the Greenland race *A.a. flavirostris*. A similar sized party was present on the Lower Derwent at this time; the three adult birds from 1984 remained until 10th January when they were joined by a further 11 and another on 26th. These 15 birds remained until 17th March. On 24th March a single immature of the Greenland race arrived staying until 28th April. Six or seven adults were present in the Kilnsea/Spurn area from 1st January to 5th. Two at Filey on 7th, and two at Broomfleet on 29th. Seven birds in the vicinity of Filey and Cayton on 7th February, and an adult at Saltend on 26th March. Further inland, the injured bird remained at Fairburn Ings until 4th September when it was assumed to have died. A single adult at either Farnham or Hay-a-Park from 22nd January to 17th February with a single bird at Roundhay Park (Leeds) on 1st April. An immature was present at Harthill Res. from 23rd February to 10th March.

During the later months four birds were present at Flamborough from 12th to 18th October, with three flying to the south there on 1st November on which date 16 flew south off Filey in small parties. Two adults and four immatures at Tophill Low Res. on the same date. 23 were reported from Flamborough on 14th December with a single bird to the north-east at Saltend on 18th, and what was possibly this same bird present at Barmston from 19th to the end of the year.

Five present on the Lower Derwent on 15th December. Single juvenile at Nosterfield on 22nd and 23rd December, whilst a single flew south over Bentley on 1st December. A single immature of the Greenland race was reported at Nosterfield from 13th to 25th December.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Ferally breeding birds continue to spread and flourish particularly in V.C. 61 and the Harrogate area of V.C. 64. Breeding took place at a minimum of 11 sites in V.C. 61; one in V.C. 63 and three in V.C. 64 with good success at all locations. The peak count at Hornsea Mere being in excess of 700 birds during September whilst over 500 were reported from Tophill Low Res. during the same month, though there could be some interchange between these two sites. Up to 80 were present at Broomfleet during the winter months, whilst on the Lower Derwent and Pocklington Canal areas the highest count was 381 during January, with 300 in February and over 250 during October. Castle Howard had 145+ throughout the first four months of the year and over 200 during November and December.

In V.C. 63 flocks of up to 30 were reported from several locations with larger parties being recorded as follows: 180 to west over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 17th February; Blacktoft Sands had birds most days until May with maximum of 56 on 2nd March and again from July

to end of year with up to 34 in November. These birds would more than likely be part of the flock from across the river at Broomfleet. V.C. 64 had larger numbers with birds present all year at Nosterfield where maxima were 197 on 8th August and 109 on 1st September; 64 were reported from Fairburn Ings on 13th November and 53 at Staveley on 28th December. 62 were recorded flying over Eccup Res. and Adel Moor on 17th February with 205 over Fairburn Ings on 11th December. V.C. 65 reported an increase in the flock at Bolton-on-Swale with 320 there on 13th January, 318 on 18th February and 175 on 13th December.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Five white phased birds were reported from several localities in the Harrogate area during the early months. Two of these birds bred at Ripley Lake rearing three young after which these eight birds were reported from many sites until the end of the year. At Broomfleet a single bird appeared on 11th January staying with the Greylag Geese. This bird paired with a Greylag rearing three young being described as 'like Greylags with dull pink bill and legs, white rump'. Two of these birds were eventually shot, the third being still present at the end of the year as was the adult Snow Goose (TAE). This was no doubt the bird seen on several occasions at Blacktoft Sands. A single blue phased bird was seen on occasions at Harewood Park and Eccup Res. in the early months, whilst on 15th September two white birds were seen at Harewood. Four white birds flew over Thorner on 11th November and four were reported from Hornsea Mere on 27th December. Nine (6 white and 3 blue) were seen daily at Nosterfield G.P. from 9th to 23rd September. In the Lower Derwent a bird from 1984 remained into 1985 being reported until 26th January. An adult, considered to be a different bird, was seen in the same area on 19th October, 10th, 13th and 23rd November. On several dates during March and April a Greylag x Snow Goose hybrid was reported from this area.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

The status of this species would appear to be unchanged though possibly there is still a slight increase taking place in all areas. Reported breeding sites in V.C. 63 were down though no records were received from the Sheffield area. In V.C. 61 the peak count at Hornsea Mere was 311 being almost identical to that of the previous year whilst in the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area the 353 counted during January constituted a new high for that region. No counts were received from East Park (Hull); Rise Park; Burton Constable or the lakes in the Market Weighton/Pocklington area. 44 were reported from Hunmanby on 11th January. Castle Howard had a peak of 137 during September and was the only high count for V.C. 62. V.C. 63 reported large numbers from only Bretton Park and Pugney's G.P. where the former had 200 in mid March and 240 during November, while the latter reported c300 on 26th January; 290 in late September; 370 on 3rd October falling to 250 by early November and remaining around that level until the end of the year. V.C. 64, being the stronghold of this species, did not comment on the breeding success though numbers were high throughout, with 525 in the Hay-a-Park/Farnham/Staveley area in January; 435 at Masham also in January; up to 514 at Nosterfield during August and 620 there in September; 393 at Fairburn Ings on 21st June (moulting flock). 200 in the Ribble valley in late December; 210+ at Knotford Nook on 22nd October. The Eccup/Harewood Park area held over 500 birds throughout January and February; 654 at Eccup on 30th August, with a very high count of 927 there on 23rd September; 750 on 3rd October; 664 on 29th November and 592 on 28th December. In V.C. 65, 229 were at Leighton Res. in October and 200 during November whilst Leyburn Flatts had up to 260 roosting at Wisings Pool during November and December.

A bird of one of the smaller races was reported from Hornsea Mere and East Park (Hull) during the latter months of the year and could have been the bird reported from near Saltend on 4th February. On 15th, a bird showing the characteristics of the race *B.c. interior* was reported from the Lower Derwent (DR:RS).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

One to 10 birds were reported from 35 locations during the course of the year with most of these being feral in origin; frequently these birds associated with flocks of Canada Geese and occasionally hybrid birds were also reported. The possibility that one pair bred at

Hornsea Mere exists though no birds were fledged. It is assumed that this species is still breeding at Flamingo Park and that the large flocks reported from Castle Howard on 11th February which consisted of 71 birds plus four hybrids, and the regularly wintering flock at Hornsea Mere of between 78 and 85 birds plus four hybrids, and a Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* were from that location. The Hornsea Mere flock was present almost daily until the first week of March and returned on 28th October, a week earlier than in 1984 having increased to between 92 and 103 birds, the latter count being on 27th December.

Parties of birds which appear to have more claims to have been truly wild were reported from Shepley, 21 flying southwest on 3rd January; 24 at Hornsea Mere on 12th October also reported as 25 flying west over Tophill Low Res. that same day, and having increased again to 34 seen over Blacktoft Sands later the same day. 18 flew southwest over Leeds on 9th November.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

The flock on the Humber at Spurn had low double figures regularly throughout January though 193 reported on 19th; increased during February with between 85 and 277, whilst 110 to 262 were present in March until 11th, after which a decrease to below 80 to the 27th. Thereafter two were recorded on 31st March, three on the 2nd and 3rd April; 18 on 14th. In May, two on 15th, with singles on 16th and between 28th and 30th. Eight flew south offshore there on 15th May, whilst a single bird was seen on 26th. Single north on 6th July was no doubt the bird reported on the Humber on the following two days. The first of the autumn were two on the Humber on 29th September, and then from 5th October birds were recorded daily with the exception of a three day period in late November. During the first half of October numbers increased to 41 thereafter over 100 present to the end of the month including a maximum count of 282, with the exception of 87 on 21st. Up to 170 were reported during the first 10 days of November, thence between 13 and 90 during the remainder of the month, though 100 were counted on the 30th. December brought double figure counts apart from 175 on 1st; 363 on the 3rd, which consisted of small flocks flying up the Humber, and 200 on 8th.

11 were reported from Flamborough on 5th January, with 28 flying north off Hornsea the following day; 67 at Flamborough on 9th; 11 there again on 13th, with 14 on 16th and nine on 19th, thereafter one to three until the end of the month. 10 birds were present at Filey on four days during the first few weeks of the year, and may have been linked to the Flamborough birds.

Six reported from Filey on 10th October with two at Flamborough on 13th; 12 at Flamborough on 23rd, on which date eight were reported from Hornsea. 15 at Filey on 29th when 29 were reported from Flamborough. 32 off Filey on 19th November with three at Flamborough. 33 off Flamborough on 1st December, with 22 at Filey the same day. Between 15 and 62 were reported from Kilnsea ponds from 23rd November to the end of the year. 183 counted between Easington and Skeffling along the Humber on 8th December were obviously associated with the Spurn birds.

Inland, a single bird was reported from Ardsley Res. and Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd January, whilst the bird from 1984 at Gouthwaite was present there until 19th January, and was quite likely the bird reported from Fairburn Ings on 26th. Four flew east at Blacktoft Sands on 17th November.

Birds belonging to the pale breasted form *B.b. hortae* were reported from Barmston, where seven on 7th January had increased to 12 by the 12th remaining until 16th February, when decreased to 10 which remained for a further week. 19 were at Spurn on 30th January with 12 to 14 on four days during February; these birds spent most of the time at Kilnsea ponds where various counts of between 20 and 23 were reported from 19th January to the end of that month, with 11 on 2nd February then increasing to 15 by 20th. Two were seen briefly at Pugney's G.P. on 3rd April.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Seven juveniles alighted briefly at Castle Howard on 29th July, and a single flew south-east with Shelducks at Spurn on 16th August, returning to the north-west a little later.

Published with the escape proviso.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Breeding along the Lower Derwent and Pocklington Canal was reported as poor, with some 20 pairs producing only three broods. A similar situation was reported from Blacktoft Sands with 15 pairs producing very few young. No feedback received from other localities along the Humber though known to have bred. Small numbers bred inland in V.C. 61 at Tophill Low Res., Brandesburton, Lissett and Kelk. In V.C. 63, apart from Blacktoft Sands, breeding was reported from Blaxton; in V.C. 64, two pairs in the Ribble valley, and in V.C. 65 at Masham, with a single pair rearing six young; Nosterfield, one pair; Scorton Quarry where 10 were hatched though none survived; Catterick Race Course, one pair, and Bolton-on-Swale, one pair. Pairs were also present at Fairburn Ings and Ripley Park though breeding not proven.

The Birds of the Estuary counts gave 594 (between Goole and Spurn) on 13th January; 2192 on 17th February; 1841 on 22nd September and 1735 on 8th December. On all occasions the largest counts were between Cherry Cobb and Patrington Haven. Outside these counts the spring maximum at Cherry Cobb was 1206 on 28th April followed by a rapid decline during May. Numbers built up during late June and July to give 1130 on 18th July. At Sunk Island 400 were present at the end of July and during the first part of August, increasing to 1140 on 10th declining to 850 by 17th thence 320 on 26th, with 250 to 300 during the autumn.

Spurn had double figures throughout the first six weeks of the year building up gradually to over 100 by mid February peaking at 268 on 22nd falling again in March though some higher counts with monthly maximum of 154. Autumn counts there were low, with the exception of 148 on 4th September. Eastward passage associated with the moult migration to Germany involved some 1200 birds with 277 on 20th July as the peak. Southerly passage offshore at Spurn noted mainly in Autumn and Winter, with the high count of 747 on 1st December on which date 176 were reported passing Filey; 172 off Flamborough and 32 at Long Nab, Burniston.

The Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal had up to 6 during January increasing to 59 by 10th February and 126 by 17th March.

Westerly movement along the Humber was noted at Blacktoft Sands, particularly between 4th and 13th September when 344 were counted, including 120 on 10th and 92 on 13th.

14 were reported near Wakefield on 3rd January, with 21 at the same location on 18th July. 35 over the Rother Valley Country Park on 17th January, and 43 to the north-east over Crossland Moor on 19th July. 24 at Fairburn Ings on 1st January. One to eight birds reported from some 20 other waters during the course of the year.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

A single female was at Hunmanby Mere on 1st February, a male at Hornsea Mere on 25th February. Single male at Sprotbrough Flash from 21st to 23rd March, whilst three birds were on the River Nidd near Knaresborough between 27th and 31st March. Single female at Tophill Low Res. on 24th April. Moulting male at Castle Howard on six days between 2nd and 16th June; single male at Eccup Res. on 28th September.

Published with the escape proviso.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Bred at Grimwith Res. where nine adults and 28 young were present on 16th June. Four pairs were in the Lower Derwent during the breeding season although there was no definite proof that they did in fact breed.

The Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area had very large numbers during the first months of the year, with maxima of 4250 in January; in February, the highest counts ever with 7000 on 4th, 7500 on 7th, 6855 on 10th and 8000 on 17th; March had a high of 4000, with 500 in April declining to 100 by 28th. The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had lower numbers than usual with between 1500 and 2000 during January, the maximum being 2300 on the 23rd; 2000 were recorded on 1st February thereafter decreasing to 1000 by 5th thence 870 on 8th, after which numbers were below 650 throughout the remainder of the month, with the

exception of 1300 on 17th. The Birds of the Estuary counts of the north bank from Goole to Spurn gave counts of c1900 on 13th January; c1800 on 17th February; 324 on 22nd September, and c2000 on 8th December, on each occasion at least 75 per cent of the birds recorded being on the Refuge. At Cherry Cobb good numbers were reported with 400 to 550 throughout January and February, though generally a little lower during the latter part of this period, but a high of 1200 on 20th February when attracted to grain and potatoes. Blacktoft Sands, on the south bank of the River Ouse had 2350 during the cold weather on 20th January, with 1450 on 17th February, and 1100 on 1st March. Inland in V.C. 61 Hornsea Mere had lower than average numbers, with 364 on 20th January whilst Tophill Low Res. had up to 450 frequently, and monthly maxima of 508 on 9th January; 588 on 20th February. In V.C.s 63 and 64 the only count of over 100 was from the Ribble valley, with 150 there on 18th January.

In V.C. 65 the dramatic increase of this species at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. continued with 1060 there on 19th January. Elsewhere in the V.C. early year maxima counts were 106 at Thornton Steward; 140 at Leyburn Flatts.

Autumn and early winter numbers were generally lower, with up to 150 on the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area during October; 552 in November increasing rapidly to c5000 during December. 400 reported from Blacktoft Sands in November being the highest count there. Hornsea Mere had a maximum of 250 on 22nd December, whilst at Tophill Low Res. numbers had reached 200 by 7th December increasing to 400 on 15th and 526 on 24th. 250 were present in the Ribble valley during late November, with 208 at Fairburn Ings on 18th November and 175+ on 1st December; 136 at Eccup Res. on 15th December. Bolton-on-Swale had even larger numbers than during the early months with 1100 by 29th December (this had increased to 1450 by Spring 1986). It is a matter of great concern that this locality which, with the exception of the Lower Derwent Ings, is by far the most important inland site for this species in the County is under threat from various schemes of development.

Little coastal passage during the early months, with 170 off Filey on 4th January, slightly higher numbers along the coast during October to December, with 200 at Spurn on 7th October; 107 at Flamborough on 20th, and on the 1st December heavy southerly movement was reported from Filey, 427; Flamborough, 489 and 1192 off Spurn.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

A male, considered to be first winter, was present at Filey Bay, close inshore and in company with several Eider, on 31st March (PJD). On 12th April what was quite probably the same bird was at Tophill Low Res. being seen daily until 6th May (PMS *et al*). On 28th May a male going into eclipse was reported from the Lower Derwent, being seen daily until 1st June and subsequently on 3rd and 9th (TED:TB:PP).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee who considered that only one bird was involved.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Breeding was confirmed at Tophill Low Res. (4 pairs); Fairburn Ings (5 pairs); Mickle-town Ings (1 pair); Blacktoft Sands (1 pair) and Potteric Carr (3 pairs), a total of 68 young being reared. Probable breeding also took place at Broomfleet Rise Park (V.C. 61), and the Lower Derwent Ings.

Hornsea Mere had the highest numbers, though during the early months counts were unusually low. High numbers during the early autumn with 228 birds present by the end of September, and above 200 daily until mid November, with 256 on 6th October and 266 on 26th; this the second highest count ever at this water and for the County. Tophill Low Res. generally held over 25 birds during the winter months, with peaks of 28 on 13th January; 40 on 17th February; 18 on 24th March. Peaks during the later months being 46 on 22nd October; 39 on 14th November, and 17 on 15th December. The only other water having large numbers being Fairburn Ings where up to 15 were present during the first three months of the year, and an autumn peak of 72 on 6th October; 12 to 16 birds reported from Mickle-town Ings during the first days of January; 15 at Potteric Carr on 26th December, and 10 at Scampston on 18th March.

Teal *Anas crecca*

The only breeding reports received for V.C. 61 being from the Lower Derwent Ings and Skipwith Common; no reports for V.C. 62; from Thorne Moors, Blacktoft Sands, Hallam Moor, Wath Ings, Thorpe Marsh, Winscar Res. and Black Moss in V.C. 63; Grimwith Res., Buckden, Denton Moor, Roundhill Res. and Gouthwaite Res. in V.C. 64, and none from V.C. 65.

The highest counts reported were from the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area, with monthly maxima of 1966 during January; 1639 in February; 885 in March and 250 during April. The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had small counts during these months with 300+ on 6th February as the maximum, and generally between 100 and 200 birds present. Hornsea Mere had a maximum count of 250 during February whilst at Tophill Low Res. the highest count of these early months was 440 on 30th January; over 400 being reported from Saltend (Hull) during the month of January, with 240 on 13th at Cherry Cobb, and 275 there on 17th February. 300 at Bolton Percy Ings on 2nd February; Blacktoft Sands had a peak of 255 on 2nd February also, whilst the highest count at Wath Ings was 280 on 5th January; 380 at Potteric Carr on 30th January; up to 380 at Thorpe Marsh during this month, and 314 at Carlton Marsh on 16th. 459 were at Swillington Park on 13th February and 239 at Gouthwaite Res. during March.

During the later months 1150 were recorded on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 22nd September. 350 on 1st December was the maximum count at Hornsea Mere while 650 at Tophill Low Res. on 3rd October the best count there. The Lower Derwent reported 100 during August and September, with 120 in October and 500 in November increasing to 650 during December. Numbers at Cherry Cobb had reached 200 by late November increasing to 397 on 1st December, with 321 still present at the end of the month.

370 were counted at Blacktoft Sands on 30th August, with 550 on 27th September increasing to 1150 on 18th October falling to 900 on 1st November, whilst 300 were present at Thorpe Marsh during both November and December; peaks of 317 in October and 312 during November at Gouthwaite Res., 400+ at Swillington Park on 28th December; 323 in the Ribble Valley on 18th October, and 531 at Fairburn Ings on 30th November. 296 at Nosterfield in December was the highest count for V.C. 65.

Coastal passage was relatively light with 399 on 7th October at Spurn by far the highest count; 106 off Flamborough on 31st August; 99 on 18th October and 116 on 1st December.

Individuals showing the characteristics of the North American race *A. c. carolinensis* were at Fairburn Ings on 16th February (GRW:HJW) and at Tophill Low Res. on 26th and 27th December (RL:PMS:DJS). Both records accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge which normally carries large numbers had under 1000 birds during the month of January, with the exception of 1200 on 12th and 1100 on 30th; during February between 1500 and 1700 were recorded during the early days with 1800 on 9th, thereafter below 1000 reported except for 1000+ on 13th and a similar number on 26th. Hornsea Mere had a maximum count for the early months of 2570 on 19th January. The Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area had monthly maxima of 2071 in January, 2500 in February, 1000 in March. Tophill Low Res. had 1000 on 30th January, with 1042 on 20th February; 1400 at Sunk Island on 17th February, with 1800 at Cherry Cobb on 13th January.

2111 were at Fairburn Ings on 16th February, with 1000 at Eccup Res. on 8th January.

Autumn numbers along the Derwent/Pocklington Canal area were extremely low, and the wildfowl count in mid December only revealed 16 birds. Numbers have been declining there for several years. Hornsea Mere had 2500 in mid December whilst Tophill Low Res. had 1550 on 13th October and 1000+ from 1st to 9th November, with 1000 on 24th December: 1029 were at Cherry Cobb on 13th October.

Blacktoft Sands had 1400 on 17th September, whilst 1000+ were recorded at Blaxton Settling Ponds near Doncaster on 6th October. Fairburn Ings had a maximum count of 2140 on 1st December, with 1366 at Eccup Res. on 28th. 1150 were at Bolton-on-Swale G.P. on 29th.

A further 11 locations reported counts of over 500 birds as their yearly maxima.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Three pairs probably bred in the Lower Derwent. Monthly maxima there during the early year being five in January; 165 in February and 49 in March. The only other location that reported more than 10 birds during these months was Cherry Cobb with about 75 during the first six weeks of the year, thence between 26 and 36 until mid March, with 11 still present on 21st April, the last bird being reported on 6th May except for two males on 23rd June.

Birds were more widespread during the autumn and early winter months, with 15 to the west at Sunk Island on 31st August. The day after 17 flew west over Pugney's G.P. Blacktoft Sands also had birds on 31st August, with 19 to the west, whilst 25 flew in the same direction there on 8th September; 37 on 1st October and 75 present there on 18th. Sunk Island had birds frequently during this period, with 12 on 15th September; 22 on 6th October; 24 on 13th and 29 on 2nd November, with 22 at Cherry Cobb on 20th October; 59 on 30th November and 63 on 8th December.

Tophill Low Res. reported 13 on 13th September, with 29 on 5th October and up to 14 during the remainder of that month, with higher counts of 24 on 9th and 21 on 10th.

11 were in the Ribble Valley on 26th September, with nine at Eccup Res. on 14th November. 12 present at Redmires Res. on 26th October; 12 west over Pugney's G.P. on 15th November, with 18 south over Sprotbrough Flash on 30th December.

23 at Castle Howard on 23rd November, whilst the Lower Derwent only had 16 birds present during the latter half of December.

16 were on the Humber at Spurn on 1st October, with off-shore passage there of 10 on 29th September; nine on 1st October and 30 on 1st December.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Probably bred in the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas, with a pair at one site regularly from 30th March until 19th May, and again on 6th July with a pair at another site on 25th April; a male on 1st May and female on 20th May. Single birds were also reported on 21st July, 29th August, 15th and 18th September.

An early female at Fairburn Ings on 9th and 10th March, with the next record coming from the Derwent as above. Blacktoft Sands had a male from 6th to 9th April with three birds, two of them males, at Tophill Low Res. on 10th, and then a pair at Denaby Ings on 11th, these being joined by a second pair on the 22nd which remained until 30th. Pairs were at Broomhill Flash and Fairburn Ings on 8th May, with the latter birds possibly attempting to breed, the male being seen regularly until 23rd June, whilst the female was not seen after 28th May.

Single male at Filey on 13th May, with one at Tophill Low Res. from 13th to 23rd and two birds there on 14th. A single male at Kilnsea ponds on 28th May. Pair at Mickletown Ings on 23rd and 25th June.

The pair at Fairburn were seen irregularly up to 21st July thence one to three birds there from 7th August to 27th September.

Two birds at Hornsea Mere on 27th and 28th July, with a single at Bempton on 9th August. Singles at Esholt from 16th to 18th August, and Gallaber on 29th whilst in V.C. 63 birds were noted from 3rd July to 14th September, with one to six at five locations—six being reported from Broomhill Flash on 29th August.

Single birds were recorded at Flamborough from 17th to 21st August, and on 31st with one to two at Tophill Low Res. from 16th to 28th September.

A single bird flew south at Spurn on 9th August, whilst one flew north off Hornsea on 9th September.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

An estimated 45 pairs bred along the Derwent/Pocklington Canal area though with the extremely wet and cold season only two broods were reported.

Elsewhere bred at Tophill Low Res. with 2 broods being seen; Blacktoft Sands with two pairs and one brood reported; Sprotbrough Flash, no details, and Wombwell Ings, four young. Seven pairs were present at Fairburn Ings during the breeding season.

Numbers during the first months of the year were small, with the exception of Tophill Low Res. where numbers during January increased to 70+ by the end of the month gradually

rising to a peak of 94 on 20th February, thence 83 on 17th March, and down to 34 on 6th April. Elsewhere, Fairburn Ings had 40, the highest count of these months; Swillington Ings, 28 on 24th March; Derwent Ings with 35 during February; 27 at Wath Ings on 1st January; 30 at Denaby on 2nd January and Potteric Carr 21 on 6th January.

Numbers during the autumn and early winter were higher than spring with Fairburn Ings; Tophill Low Res. and Hornsea Mere holding the largest numbers. The peak count at Fairburn being 188 on 14th October, while at Tophill Low Res. the number present had reached between 75 and 100 by the last days of August. This increased further to 122 on 11th September thereafter decreasing to 100 on 3rd October, and then 102 on 26th falling to 40 by late November: Hornsea Mere had a maximum count of 107 on 17th November, with only c50 during the rest of the autumn. 40 were at Broomfleet on 17th August. 44 at Wath Ings on 24th August; 30 at Potteric Carr from 28th to 30th August, rising to c50 on 28th September, c75 on 18th November, thence 35 on 15th December. 48 were reported from Sprotbrough Flash on 25th September, with 30 at Pugney's G.P. on 5th November, whilst Blacktoft Sands had 42 on 24th September; 50 on 26th October and 55 on 10th November. 32 in the Ribble valley on 5th September; 40 along the Lower Derwent in August, with 35 at Castle Howard on 20th October and 37 there on 29th September.

Coastal passage was light with 10 at Flamborough on 28th August, with 13 at Spurn the same day and 14 off Flamborough on 14th December.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Two males were reported from Fairburn Ings on 17th May (M&PC:SPD), with a single bird there on 27th (PK *et al*).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Breeding was reported from Tophill Low Res.; Broomfleet; Fairburn Ings; Mickletown Ings; Blacktoft Sands; Pugney's G.P.; Potteric Carr and Newmillerdam. For the first time in many years breeding was not reported from the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area. The extremely wet and cold spring was considered to have been responsible for this and the poor results at other sites particularly in V.C. 63 and 64.

Numbers at Hornsea Mere were very low during the first months of the year with a maximum count of only 70 on 2nd February. Tophill Low Res. had 191 on 18th January thereafter 200+ through until mid March, with maximum count of 286 on 28th February.

212 were reported on the estuary off Blacktoft Sands on 17th February, whilst Thrybergh, Sprotbrough Flash and Catcliffe had maxima of 120+: Pugney's G.P. had larger numbers with 500 on 1st January; 650 on 6th and a peak count of 718 on 12th, thereafter up to 500 during the remainder of the month decreasing rapidly to 175 on 20th February.

Numbers at Fairburn Ings were higher than normal, with 212 on 25th January then a large influx in mid February to 781 on 18th followed by a rapid decrease. This count was only exceeded by the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area where after 24 on 1st January; 130 on 27th increasing to 230 on 30th, thence a very rapid increase in conjunction with deep flooding to 1250 on 3rd February, to 1678 on 10th falling to 60 on 17th, though 300 on 24th. 205 were at Mickletown Ings on 3rd March, with 350 at Swillington Ings on 6th February with a similar count on 8th March.

Numbers during the later months of the year were low with the highest count at Fairburn Ings of 248 on 7th December. Pugney's G.P. had 240 on 30th December, whilst 100+ were at Tophill Low Res. on 21st July and 22nd October; 145 at Bolton-on-Swale on 30th November.

49 flew west over Spurn on 15th November, continuing up the Humber while 22 at Flamborough on 1st December was the maximum count further north along the coast.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

For the ninth consecutive year a male favoured Tophill Low Res. being reported from 9th January to 16th April and then again from 14th November until the end of the year (PMS IF:TR *et al*).

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

A single bird at Kilnsea ponds on 23rd August (NAB), whilst the male on the Lower Derwent first reported on 24th November 1984 remained until 5th January.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Breeding reported from some 48 sites, mainly in the west and north of the County with 25 pairs at Fairburn Ings, and 11 pairs at Bolton-on-Swale. Stated to have had a very poor success rate in V.C. 63, with numbers fledging down by some 50 per cent on 1984; several other localities reporting poor breeding success.

Tophill Low Res. had monthly maxima during the early months of 650 on 17th January; 775 on 28th February; 500 on 2nd March, between 100 and 150 present from early April to mid July increasing to 350 by end of month; 400 to 480 throughout August, thence generally under 200 during September except for 260 on 10th; 300 on 6th October, 433 on 17th November and 400 on 24th and 26th December: Hornsea Mere had less than 100 birds during the first two months then increasing to a spring peak of 450 on 10th April, whilst 697 on 20th October was the highest count of the year. Fairburn Ings and Pugney's G.P. were the other waters that had large numbers, with the former recording c300 during early January rising to 482 on 25th followed by another influx to give 729 on 18th February. Pugney's G.P. reported 465 on 12th January, with 516 on 19th and 454 on 19th February; 297 at Winterset Res. on 11th January, whilst in V.C. 65 Bolton-on-Swale recorded 281 on 10th August. Towards the end of the year Winterset Res. had 334 present.

An unusual flock of 320 were on the Humber near Saltend (Hull) on 5th February; most of this flock remaining throughout the month, with 220 being present on 28th after which no more counts were made.

On 1st December, the day of much duck passage, 45 flew south off Filey and 27 off Spurn.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Spurn had birds on many days during the early months being reported daily from 19th February to 13th March, with 80 on 19th; 142 on 24th February and 140 on 7th March. 93 were off Flamborough on 7th January, with 87 north off Bridlington the same day; 44 at Flamborough on 8th, with 93 again there on 14th and 56 on 17th on which date 32 were reported from Filey, and 28 flew west at Saltend (Hull). On the 18th 31 were at Flamborough; 24 at Filey and eight at Kilnsea ponds the last increasing to 16 the following day and 22 on 22nd. Numbers built up on the Humber at Saltend to 52 on 6th February decreasing thereafter to eight on 26th.

Away from the coast, Fairburn Ings had a remarkable series of records with seven on 17th January increasing to nine then from 1st to 8th February 11 were present, with five then until early March. Eight were present from 9th to 24th with three remaining until 5th April.

Hornsea Mere had up to three birds present between 10th April and 23rd May, whilst Tophill Low Res. had one to two on many days during the first four months, with up to three during the latter half of November then four on 27th; five on 29th, with three on 1st December.

One to two birds were reported from 10 other sites during both winters.

Five at Bolton-on-Swale on 29th October.

Numbers along the coast were low during the latter months though at Saltend 42 flew west on 18th November, and 57 were on the Humber there on 20th. 19 flew south at Spurn on 1st December.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Large numbers were resident at Filey throughout the year, with up to 98 during January; 68 during February; 76 in March and 60 during June: Flamborough also had large counts, with 48 on 14th January; 138 on 18th and 376 on 19th; this last total being the highest ever reported from this locality and apparently the highest count for Yorkshire. Monthly maxima at Spurn were 76 in January; 81 in February; 80 during March and 62 in April.

12 flew off Saltend (Hull) on 15th January, whilst 14 were on the Humber there on 19th on which date seven flew along the River Trent at Blacktoft Sands. Numbers at Filey were up to 44 during September; 36 in October; 56 in November and 14 during December. 80 at Flamborough on 31st October with 116 on 16th November on which day 27 flew north off Hornsea, and 13 were off Saltend, and eight flew west and four east off Sunk Island. Saltend had 10 on the 17th; 13 on 18th, with 45 flying to the west on the 19th, then three on 20th and seven on 23rd. 71 at Flamborough on 30th.

Inland, an immature male was present at Langsett Res. on 19th January (JH:RW), and a first winter female on the River Ouse in the centre of York from 21st to 23rd November.

50 flew south and 17 north off Spurn on 31st October.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

One to two birds reported during January from the Scarborough area whilst up to four were reported from Filey, and up to three at Flamborough during the same period.

Four were at Flamborough on 16th February, with four in the Scarborough area the same day; a single bird which remained at Filey for most of the first four months remained into May, and was joined by three others on the 3rd and two on most days until 17th.

Up to four birds present at Filey during November whilst Flamborough had 10 on 12th and 15 on 16th, on which date five flew north off Marine Drive, Scarborough. Three birds were present at Kilnsea ponds from late October to early November. Nine flew west off Saltend on 16th November after which single birds were reported from there on several other days during this month.

A single bird at Hornsea Mere on 10 days from the beginning of the year to 4th May with one to three birds there between 24th November and 1st December.

Tophill Low Res. had single birds on two January days, and single days in November and December.

Further inland a pair were at Pugney's G.P. from 29th to 30th April, and a single female/immature at Thornton Res. on 29th October.

Addition to the 1984 Report: One at Thrybergh Res. from 18th February to 17th March.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

What was obviously the day of the year for this species was 16th November when 1153 were reported flying west at Saltend (Hull) during the morning. 467 were also reported passing Flamborough whilst inland 115 were reported from Leighton Res., all of which were recorded as female/immatures; 37 were also at Gouthwaite Res., 15 at Pugney's G.P. and seven at Leeshaw Res. This vast movement was not reflected further down the Humber, with only 50 at Spurn though 150 were reported from there on the previous two days. 33 flew west and 76 east off Cherry Cobb on this day. It has been reported that a few were observed from the Lincolnshire side of the Humber.

On the following day only 12 were reported off Saltend, all flying east, whilst 115 were reported flying west off Sunk Island.

The winter flock in Bridlington Bay numbered 150+, with higher counts of 275 on 19th January; 330 on 26th and 600 on 4th February – this flock occasionally being reported as far south as Atwick.

Monthly maxima at Spurn being 169 in January; 200 during February, 90 in June; 134 in July; 176 in August; 290 in October and 190 in November. Flamborough reported over 100 birds on many days with 155 on 30th June; 267 on 26th July; 155 on 12th October; 165 on 27th and 203 on 29th whilst at Hornsea there were 205 on this last date. 225 at Flamborough on 2nd November.

Eight were at Tophill Low Res. on 9th May while at Fairburn Ings two females were present on 26th and 27th July, with one remaining until 31st.

80 flew west over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 14th August, with six at Eccup Res. on 18th September.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Seven at Filey on 17th January with three to the west at Saltend (Hull) the following day;

five at Flamborough on 19th and on 30th, and four at Spurn on 27th. Six at Filey on 17th February, with eight the following day. Three at Spurn on 6th May with four there on 9th, whilst at Saltend two flew west on 12th.

10 at Filey on 28th September; eight at Spurn on 30th October (1 on the Humber; 3 flying north and 4 south); eight at Hornsea on 1st November, when six flew south off Filey; five at Flamborough on 16th November, with four there on 26th.

Two flew west off Saltend on 23rd November.

One to three birds were occasionally reported from Flamborough; Hornsea and Spurn apart from those mentioned above; up to two on five days of the year from the Scarborough and Burniston areas.

Single female at Hornsea Mere on 30th November, whilst further inland a female was at Eccup Res. on 13th October; a male at Pugney's G.P. on 15th November, and a male at Lowther Lake on 24th November.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Hornsea Mere had the highest numbers with between 30 and 60 during the early months, and an isolated peak of 103 on 16th February. Spring build up to 251 on 9th April, with 171 on 17th thereafter numbers declined to 49 on 20th, and 17 on 29th, with the last bird being reported on 24th May. 20 to 26 were recorded from Kilnsea/Easington ponds during these first two months with a build up there to 80 on 16th March. Other early year maxima were: Winterset Res. 25 on 30th January; 41 on 26th February and 11th March; Pugney's G.P. with 30 on 31st January; 66 on 17th February and 43 on 3rd March; Fairburn Ings with 34 during January; 71 on 19th February; 98 on 14th and 15th March and then 30 to 60 to 9th April; 40 at Gouthwaite Res. during January with 33 in March; 29 at Eccup Res. on 19th January; 28 at Hay-a-Park during February; 54 at Bolton-on-Swale in March, and 24 at Nosterfield also in March.

A large flock was discovered on the Humber near Saltend (Hull) in early February numbering some 168 birds slowly decreasing to 104 on 26th after which there were no more counts.

Monthly maxima on the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas being 15 in January; 45 in February; 46 in March; 30 in April with the last birds on 16th and 17th May. Numbers during the latter months of the year were smaller with again Hornsea Mere having the most birds. The first arriving there on 23rd September after which there was a slow build up during October, with c50 being present during the last two months.

Winterset Res. had 24 on 1st November, with 21 on 29th December; Pugney's G.P. 21 on 22nd December; Gouthwaite Res. 34 in December, and Eccup Res. 22 on 15th November. 35 were at Saltend on 19th November.

19 to the north off Hornsea on 3rd November was the highest coastal count, with 14 to the north off Scarborough on 11th November.

Addition to the 1984 Report: 25 at Redmires Res. on 9th January.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

An unprecedented year; birds being reported from many locations during the latter half of January with the onset of extreme weather particularly on the Continent.

In V.C. 61, a female at Hunmanby Mere on 10th January, single female there on 21st; male and female on 23rd, with three birds on 27th, and a single remaining until 5th March (BS&SP). Filey had 15 birds, all *redheads*, on 15th January, with six present the following day, and three on 17th; single male on 18th, and a *redhead* on 27th. Broomfleet had a remarkable series of records with the first, a *redhead*, on 15th; six on 19th followed by five on 20th; 21 there on 23rd (this being the highest number ever recorded in Yorkshire); 10 on 24th with four on the 25th, 13 on 26th, 10 on 27th, 12 on 29th with 10 on 30th and 31st.

Large numbers continued through February with six on the 1st, 16 on 2nd, 14 on 4th, 15 on 5th, 16 on 6th and 7th, 17 on 9th, 16 on 10th, 10 on 11th then 15 again on 12th increasing to 19 on 13th and 14th, with 18 on 15th, 10 on 17th then nine the following day, decreasing to seven on 19th and five on 20th; seven again on 22nd, with 16 the following day and 13 on 24th, six on 26th, 12 on 1st and 2nd March, 13 on 3rd, 17 on 4th, seven on 5th, three on 7th,

two on 9th, with a single on 10th, two on 11th, thence singles on 16th and 17th finally two birds on 23rd (TAE).

Hull Docks and the Holderness Drain had a female on 17th January, with three males on 21st and 22nd and four males the following day. A *redhead* was at Tophill Low Res. on 17th with two there on 19th, three on 27th and five on 28th; a single on 12th February, four on 16th and two on 17th. Hornsea Mere had the first bird on 22nd January, with four males on 26th; seven birds there on 9th February; eight on 16th, thereafter up to five birds until 3rd March. A single flew west at Cherry Cobb on 27th January. A male at Flamborough on 17th January. Seven at Kelk on 19th January; five at Kilnsea ponds (4 males) on 20th, with two males there on 22nd, a male on 23rd and two *redheads* on 27th; three *redheads* at Brandesburton on 3rd February. Spurn had a male and two *redheads* on 16th January, with two males to the south-west on 19th; single *redhead* on 22nd; another the following day, with one south offshore on 29th. The Lower Derwent had a male and three *redheads* on 20th and 21st January, with a pair on 22nd and from 3rd to 8th February; a male and two *redheads* from the 9th to 14th increasing to a male and three *redheads* on 10th, and again from 16th to 19th, with a male and four *redheads* on 20th and 23rd, then three *redheads* on 24th.

V.C. 62 had a *redhead* at Scarborough on 12th January, with five there on 22nd (1 male); a male and two *redheads* at Nether Poppleton on 18th January, increasing to two males and five *redheads* on 20th, then four *redheads* on 21st; two *redheads* at Low Catton on 22nd January, with two at Scrayingham on 5th February.

V.C. 63 had the regular male at Scout Dyke and Ingbirchworth Res. until 12th April except for a visit to Cannon Hall on 22nd February. Blacktoft Sands had a *redhead* from 3rd to 17th January, with three *redheads* flying west there on 20th after which one to three birds were present from 25th January to 11th February, with four on 29th and five on 10th February, after which one to three again from 15th February to 9th March. At Pugney's G.P. a single *redhead* on 23rd January, with three on 24th, two of them remaining to 27th; a single to 3rd February, and a single again from 15th February to 23rd. Thorpe Marsh had five birds (1 male), on 29th and 30th January, with four on 1st February (1 male). A *redhead* at Harthill Res. from 2nd to 4th February, whilst on the River Don near Thorne a pair were present on 18th February.

V.C. 64, a *redhead* was at Fairburn Ings on 17th January after which one to four birds were present until 7th March, including a male; it is considered that at least seven individuals were involved. An adult male was at Swillington Ings on 25th and 26th January, with a pair at Farnham on 26th; Eccup Res. had three *redheads* on 28th January. In February birds were more widespread with reports coming from Eccup; Roundhay Park; Knotford Nook; Staveley; Allerton Park; Bolton Percy and Hay-a-Park where 16 were recorded on 4th. Most of these localities had one or two birds, with the last being at Knotford Nook on 5th March.

V.C. 65 had several birds present in the Bolton-on-Swale/Catterick/Brompton areas between 21st January to 4th March, with five at the first location on 12th and 14th February.

The later part of the year had few birds though two males and a *redhead* at Broomfleet on 23rd December were joined by a second *redhead* on 30th remaining into 1986. The male at Scout Dyke/Ingbirchworth Res. had returned by 3rd November, whilst a *redhead* was at Blacktoft Sands on 9th November, with three birds (2 males) there on 28th December. Single *redhead* at Knotford Nook from 1st to 31st December. Single at Bolton-on-Swale on 13th December.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Regularly reported from the coast with 10 at Flamborough on 14th January and 19 there on 5th February; five in Scarborough South Bay on 16th February. One to two birds occasionally on the Humber at Saltend, Hull (during the first two months of the year).

More widespread during the later months particularly during October, with 10 at Spurn on 23rd; nine at Flamborough on 29th; up to 15 at Filey; six off Hornsea on 13th. Four off Long Nab, Burniston on 20th; two which flew west at Sunk Island on 26th were no doubt the same birds reported from Saltend where one to two were also reported on four days during November. Up to 13 at Filey during this month, with six at Flamborough on 13th.

Single male at Tophill Low Res. on 20th and 23rd January, with a pair on the River Hull at that location on 15th February; a single bird the following day, and a male to the south-west there on 21st April.

Single female on the Lower Derwent from 7th January to 23rd February, with two on 26th January. Male at Ross Carrs on 18th January, with one at Castle Howard from 2nd to 11th February.

Birds were reported from seven sites in V.C. 63 during the period to 22nd May involving one to two birds, though six were reported flying west over South Elmsall on 4th February. During the autumn 8 locations had birds, with one to four being involved between 24th September and 15th December.

V.C. 64 had a similar disposition, with up to three birds from 12 sites to 11th May, plus a party of 13 flying east over Fairburn Ings on 24th April. Three single birds were reported in the later months, from Eccup Res. on 7th August and 11th December, and Gouthwaite Res. on 7th December.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Breeding was confirmed on the River Ure at High Batts; River Wenning; River Ribble; River Wharfe; River Swale, possibly breeding on the River Aire and several locations in V.C. 65. The spread of breeding pairs being stopped by the shooting of birds in one area.

With the onset of the extreme weather on the Continent an influx took place which was particularly noticeable in the west and north of the County, with 88 being reported from Leighton Res. in January and 101 during February (on 24th). Eccup Res., as usual, had the highest numbers, with over 100 present on seven days during January, and 80 on another five days; the peak count being 173 on 19th. These high numbers continued into February, with 150 on 16th; 140 on 20th and 137 on 24th. A rapid decline took place in mid March, with only 37 present by 23rd April, thence 32 on 3rd May and 25 on 11th. Maximum counts at other waters in V.C. 64 being 70 at Hay-a-Park during February; 40 at Bishop Monkton in January; 39 at Fairburn Ings on 24th February, with 36 there on 2nd March. 35 at Lindley Wood Res. on 26th January, and 30 at Chelker Res. on 12th. 20 were reported from Blacktoft Sands on 18th January, with 31 on 2nd and 32 on 16th February, whilst further downstream on the Humber at Saltend 11 flew east on 18th January, with 43 on the river the following day. 17 were present at Winterset Res. on 18th and 19th March.

At Castle Howard the high counts of 1984 continued into 1985, with up to 71 present there during January; 87 in February and 103 during March; the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal had 18 during January and February, with up to 12 in March.

10 were at Tophill Low Res. on 18th January, whilst at Broomfleet on 26th 15 were reported decreasing to 12 the following day, and 10 on 29th which were still present on 1st February, then increasing to 14 on 2nd and 20 on 4th, thereafter under 10 with the last on 19th.

Three males flew south-west over Thrybergh on 18th August, whilst at Paull an injured male was present from 6th July until 31st August.

Numbers during the later months were generally smaller though Castle Howard had up to 86 during November and 154 on 15th December – this the highest total in the York area, and the highest in England during this month. 88 were at Leighton Res. on November 28th, with up to 80 during December; 81 at Eccup Res. on 29th December.

13 at Blacktoft Sands on 24th November was the highest count in V.C. 63, whilst V.C. 61 had very few birds; five at Hornsea Mere on 1st December was the largest number reported from that water during the whole year.

13 flew north-west off Filey on 7th January, whilst 10 were at Barmston on the same day. 14 north-west at Filey on 12th May, 11 at Flamborough on 1st December.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Bred at Lower Derwent; Wath Ings; Broomhill; Wentworth; Newmillerdam; Mickletown Ings; Swillington Ings; Allerton Bywater; Harewood Park; Fairburn Ings; some 15 pairs rearing some 45 young. May have bred at Rise.

Also reported from a further 28 sites throughout the course of the year, with nine at Winterset Res. on 28th November as the highest count.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

A single bird flew in from the south-east at East Ardsley departing to the south-west on 26th May (PML:EAM).

A single bird at Filey on 4th June was the first record of a live bird for that locality (PAL).

A bird or birds were reported from two localities during the course of the summer.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

A single bird seen at the north end of Spurn in the late afternoon of 19th April later flew south along the peninsula and out over the Humber. The first record for the Observatory (MCD, SE, BRS).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

A single bird flew east over Harrogate on 26th March (IB), and another at Muker on 6th April (JB:HP). Single to the east at Grindale on 13th April (TMC). Single bird flying over Howden Moor on 8th June (RT) was possibly the same bird seen in the Little Don valley on 2nd and 23rd (JH:MW), and over Pike Low on 15th (JH).

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

A single adult flew north-east off shore at Spurn on the afternoon of 31st May.

A single second-winter bird flew east over Blacktoft Sands on 26th October (AG) and what could possibly have been the same bird was seen flying north at Filey on the morning of the 27th. It was also seen at Scarborough thence returned south to be seen again at Filey, and later Flamborough and Aldbrough (MW:JM:JED:TR:BP *et al*).

All records accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

The first was at Blacktoft Sands on 5th April, with one at Spurn the following day; Hornsea Mere having one on 22nd – these three locations being the only ones to report birds during April.

In V.C. 61 birds were recorded during May from Hornsea Mere, Tophill Low Res., Spurn, Grimston, Bransholme, Filey and Sunk Island; single birds being concerned in all cases.

No records from V.C. 62, whilst in V.C. 63 Blacktoft Sands had an estimated 12 different birds on passage between 5th April and 13th June. Elsewhere in that V.C. birds were reported during May from Pugney's G.P.; Hatfield Moors; Carlton Marsh; Potteric Carr; Penistone; Thorpe Marsh and Wintersett Res.

V.C. 64 recorded a single at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 18th May, with what could have been the same bird seen at Fairburn Ings on the same day, whilst one was on Guisecliff Moor on 25th May.

Single birds in V.C. 61 during the autumn from Broomfleet; Spurn; Kilnsea; Grimston; Filey; Hornsea Mere and Sunk Island.

Blacktoft Sands had nine different birds during the period 15th August to 14th September.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Winter roosts were recorded as follows: Blacktoft Sands with seven birds on 21st January then up to six in February, and five in March with the last, an immature male, on 10th May. The first returning bird on 7th September, with up to four present from 9th October onwards. Broomhead Moor had six on 1st January; five on 24th February, and six again on 11th March; the last being on 2nd May. The first returned on 24th September, with four on 10th November as maximum. One to three were present on Cowden Range from 1st January to 12th April, though none reported during the latter months. At least four birds were recorded in the Gouthwaite/Leighton Res. areas during the first four and last three months of the year. One to two birds were reported from 26 sites in V.C. 61 during both winters; nine sites in V.C. 62; 15 locations in V.C. 63; 15 in V.C. 64, and three in V.C. 65.

Single bird seen to come in off the sea at Spurn on 6th November.

Breeding was not proven in the County and very few reports of birds in suitable locations were received.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Single bird at Haverfield Ponds on 25th May (SML). Single male on Ilkley Moor on 26th May and 14th June (LGD), and single immature or female at Blacktoft Sands on 20th August (AG).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Bred or considered to have bred in several locations though little information as to the success was received.

Single male at Flamborough on three days in spring and on several days in autumn, with two birds on 27th October (AMA: DGH: PAL *et al*); a single bird at Filey on 22nd September was the first record for that location for over 100 years (CCT).

V.C. 63 had a single bird at Blacktoft Sands on 9th March (AG), with a male at Whitley Common on 31st (JED) and a female in the same area on 24th August (FJW); single at Sprotbrough Flash on 3rd March (CGJ), with a male at Owston Wood on 30th October and 27th November (JT), single female near Rockley on 26th November (PBW).

V.C. 64 had a single female at Farnham on 9th April, and one at High Batts on 7th July. A single bird at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 13th September with a male at West Tanfield on 17th November.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Continues to increase and in several locations in V.C. 65 considered to be as common as Kestrel whilst in the Harrogate and Leeds area said to be more common, though in the Settle area reported as scarcer than in any year since 1975 (BS).

Coastal passage was noted at Flamborough with six birds on 24th and 26th October and seven the following day.

A very pale *leucistic* bird reported from Thorngumbald on 31st August.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

No breeding records received though birds were present all year in several locations. Many reports from both winters though with a slight bias towards the later months with the exception of V.C. 61 where two were reported on many dates from Hornsea Mere from 1st January until 25th May with a single bird occasionally seen along the coast at Grimston between 1st January and 19th February; two at Flamborough on 9th March, with a single bird there on the following day, single at Filey on 1st April. A single bird, in heavy moult, was seen to fly in off the sea at Flamborough on 23rd June. Single at Hornsea Mere on 28th August.

One was reported from the Lower Derwent on 3rd April whilst a single bird flew south at Spurn on 23rd January.

Singles at Hollym on 14th October and Grimston on 16th November.

In V.C. 63 single birds were reported from Digley on 12th April; Potteric Carr on 5th May; Braithwaite on 17th May; Hood Green (near Barnsley) on 16th June. During the later months single birds were also recorded from Frickley Park on 18th August; the upper Ewden valley during mid September; Blacktoft Sands on 27th September and Howell Wood on 1st December.

V.C. 64 had many records of single birds with between one and four regularly in the Gouthwaite/Leighton Res. area to 5th March and again from 6th September with a single bird from mid June and two present by late July.

One to two birds regularly in several areas of V.C. 65 mainly during the winter months.

Roughlegged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Two birds present on the Yorkshire/Derbyshire borders in 1984 remained until 17th March during which period single birds were also reported from Agden; Upper Ewden and near Langsett.

All other records were from the later months of the year; single to the south at Hornsea on 20th October, one north and one south at Spurn on 26th; single at Filey on 27th; single at Spurn on 28th; single on the Lower Derwent on 2nd November, and single at Catfoss on 5th.

One to two birds at Bransdale from 17th November to end of year, with a single near Whitby on 23rd December.

A single returned to the Langsett area on 23rd October, with one to two birds being reported there and at Broomhead to the end of the year. A single bird sat on a grass bank at Blacktoft Sands on 5th November.

A single bird returned to Leighton Res. on 2nd November, after which up to four were reported from the area of Leighton/Scar House/ Gouthwaite/Roundhill until the end of the year.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

A single bird near Osmotherley on 2nd April was the first of the year (CB), followed by singles near Huddersfield on 5th and Barden Moor on 8th (AFGW:JEA) at Gouthwaite Res. on 28th, and Fairburn Ings on 30th (GRW).

Single near Bawtry on 11th May, with singles at Spurn on 13th; Bolton-on-Swale on 16th; Potteric Carr on 1st June, this bird being reported later the same day at Bentley Tilts, and finally a single at Fairburn Ings on 25th June. Autumn saw birds at Tophill Low Res. on 29th July; near Farnham on 1st August; at Fairburn Ings on 15th; Farnham on 17th; Flamborough on 18th; Spurn on 21st, Malham Tarn on 23rd; south off shore at Hornsea on 25th; at Thorne Moors on 26th and Ramsgill on 31st. Finally the last bird at Spurn on 23rd September.

Addition to 1984 Report: singles at Ingbirchworth Res. on 1st and 19th May.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

A single adult male flew to the north at Flamborough on 12th May (PAL:JMP *et al*).

Not submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Widespread with apparently little change in status particularly in the east though considered to be possibly slightly down in the Harrogate area. Said to be doing well in the uplands of V.C. 65.

A post breeding party of 16 at Sprotbrough in July being unusual.

Along the coast, up to 10 noted on several dates at Filey and Flamborough with 14 at the latter on 20th September. Spurn noted passage during mid September to mid October, with 19 on 17th September and 33 on 8th October, whilst along the Humber at Sunk Island 12 were recorded on 24th August; 10 on 14th September, 13 to east there on 28th, and 17 east on 5th October.

A melanistic bird was reported at Cherry Cobb on 29th September, whilst an albino was seen over Kippax on the afternoon of 29th June being seen later that day at Fairburn Ings.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Some 25 pairs reared 65 young in the County although certain areas were not covered. At least one pair had eggs stolen and two others were considered to have been lost the same way.

V.C. 61 had birds, mainly singles, from at least 25 locations during the periods 1st January to late April, and again from late August to year's end. Single birds reported outside these periods were at Filey on 11th May; Flamborough on 13th and Tophill Low Res. on 19th, whilst Spurn had one on 18th May. A single bird was thought to have come in off the sea there on 5th October.

Two at Cornelian Bay on 20th October otherwise single birds in V.C. 62 reported from many coastal locations.

V.C. 63 had birds at 24 locations during the early months and from 30 during the latter part of the year – three birds being occasionally reported from the Langsett area. It was muted that there was a slight increase in birds involved. An increase in lowland records from

V.C. 64, though an apparent decrease around Harrogate, with single birds reported from 14 locations. A late bird at Fairburn Ings on 21st May.

Widespread records from V.C. 65 during the non breeding seasons, with some birds reported back on moorland sites by the end of February.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Another good year.

V.C. 61 had single birds at Filey on 15th May (BS & SP); Skelton on 26th (EM); Sunk Island on 27th (JW); Spurn on 22nd June, 4th and 16th July; Tophill Low Res. on 24th July (RL); Hull Marina on 29th (SLJ), Flamborough on 10th August (AMA, JCL), Saltend (Hull) on 21st August (SLJ). Holmpton on 22nd (MQ), single to the east at Sunk Island on 24th (JW); single at Bempton between 26th and 28th (RSPB).

In V.C. 63 from Sprotbrough on 19th June; Hatfield on 22nd. In July from Wath and near Doncaster (Sixteen Acre Plantation) on 1st; Wadworth on 16th; Little Don Valley on 20th. In August from Thorpe Marsh on 3rd and 13th; Wath on 25th, Old Denaby on 27th, and Sprotbrough on 29th. Juvenile at Blacktoft Sands on 12th September.

V.C. 64 had many records with an adult at Esholt on 20th May (MP), Lofthouse on 22nd June (KM), High Batts on 7th July, Fairburn Ings on 21st, 26th (GRW) and 30th (AO'N). An adult was present there from 2nd to 16th August (CW *et al.*). An adult at Carthick Wood on 24th, with what was possibly the same bird at Thorp Arch on 27th (AMA); immature at Fairburn Ings from 31st August to 3rd September (GRW). Single at Skipton on 24th and 25th August, with one near Knaresborough on 5th September, and the last at Nosterfield on 1st October.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Several pairs bred in the county, one being robbed of three eggs, the others successfully rearing young.

Single adult present at Filey on several days from 1st January to 13th May. Adult male at Saltend on 12th January, with an immature male there on many days from 20th January to 5th March. At Flamborough a male was reported on 5th January; female on 13th and 15th, different bird on 19th; male and female on 2nd February, male on 24th with immature male on 9th and 17th March. Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 17th February; and Cowden on 26th January.

Single bird at Buckton on 23rd July.

Sunk Island had a bird on 17th August with one at Filey on 31st being seen again there on 4th September.

Less frequently during the later months with single birds seen at Flamborough on 19th and 24th October; 2nd and 23rd November with 2 on 14th December and single on 21st. Singles at Hornsea Mere on 12th October and Saltend on 28th December.

Six records of single birds in the York area; on the Lower Derwent on 2nd, 12th and 27th January; male on 4th February, with female on 6th. Single at New Earswick on 26th October.

V.C. 62 had single birds along the coast during the winter months from Scalby; Ravenscar; Scarborough and inland from Fylingdales; Bransdale and Pickering where a single bird was reported on 5th June.

V.C. 63 had birds during January at Rivelin; Broomhead; Winscar Res. and Knottingley; Broomhead again in March; Bilberry Res. on 18th May. Ewden on 16th June and 30th July; Wath Ings on 24th August, with a bird at Blackmoorfoot on 31st wearing jesses. Thrybergh on 2nd November, and Broomhead on 22nd December. More records than in recent years in V.C. 64 away from the high ground with a single bird at Fairburn Ings in January; Fountains Abbey, Eccup and Mickletown Ings in February, and in autumn from Malham; Masham and Fairburn in September; Masham and Nosterfield in October; Lindley Wood, High Batts during November, and in December quite widespread being reported from Bramhope (Leeds); Eccup, Knotford Nook, Otley Chevin, Hawksworth Moor.

Widespread reports in V.C. 65 involving one to two birds during winter months including one mobbing two Buzzards at Leighton Res. on 10th November.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Seems abundant on Bilsdale, otherwise little information from V.C. 62. In V.C. 63 there would appear to be little change in status in the Sheffield area though the decline around Huddersfield continues. 200 at Langsett on 19th January and 150 on Broomhead Moor on 10th November, being the highest counts received. Widespread though thinly distributed in V.C. 64 and again apparently no change in status.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

20+ birds at the Langstrothdale lek on 11th May. Other records from V.C. 64 being a female at Browside (near Settle) on 12th January; a male at Gouthwaite on 8th March; male on Newby Moor on 10th March; male near Scaleber on 24th June; male near Rye Loaf Hill (near Settle) in late June; female on Hunter Bark on 17th November, and two birds at Gouthwaite on 22nd and 25th December.

In V.C. 65 reported in small numbers (less than 10 birds) from West Stonesdale; Muker; Downholme Moor and Feldon Ranges.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Largest coveys reported during the early months of the year being 25 at Wharfe Ings on 27th January; 26 at Ardsley on 17th January, and 20 at Letwell on 22nd. Reported again from Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Rathmell, these being the fourth and fifth records from the Settle area.

Poor breeding season in V.C. 65 with no broods seen (DIF).

Other areas also reported poor breeding, with the highest counts being 22 at Cherry Cobb on 20th October; 31 at Grimston Bar, York on 2nd November; 23 at Fairburn on 31st August; 22 at Mickletown Ings on 3rd November; 28 at Blacktoft Sands during October and November; 26 at Thrybergh on 27th November.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Status in most of V.C. 61 appears to be unchanged though in the York area apart from the grasslands of the Lower Derwent said to be still decreasing. Considered to be still on the decline generally in V.C. 64. No reports received otherwise. Largest coveys reported being 46 at Eccup on 16th December; 47 in three coveys at Cherry Cobb on 13th October; 45+ in one field at Ferriby on 25th January; 29 at Thorp Arch on 14th December; 30 at Denaby Ings on 7th January; 34 at Thorpe Salvin on 1st February; 30 at Edderthorpe on 16th January; 39 at Thrybergh on 5th October; 33 at Wath on 9th November; 38 at Pugney's G.P. on 1st December and 30 at Blacktoft Sands on 1st December.

100 were released by a gamekeeper at Wentworth on 16th September.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Singles in V.C. 61 at Flamborough on 15th April (PAL), at Bempton on 17th May (RSPB); Grimston on 16th June (TI); Bempton on 22nd July (RSPB) and Hornsea on 3rd August (TI).

Singles in V.C. 63 at Owston Wood on 2nd July, and Thorpe Marsh on 10th September. A recently killed bird was found on school playing fields at Ilkley a few days before 25th November. The body was in fresh condition though lacking breast and back feathers and tail.

Single bird seen and heard at Bolton-on-Swale during June.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

No apparent change in status except for a decline in the Settle area where a decrease in released birds has resulted in a more natural population level. 'White' birds were reported from four locations.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

One to three birds reported from some 80 locations during the first four and last months of the year. Higher counts were reported as follows: up to five at Tophill Low Res.; four at

Hornsea Mere; 13 at Fairburn Ings on 27th January, with 12 there on 30th November. Blacktoft Sands had 15 during January though a decrease to two to five birds during the cold spell of late January/early February. 25 were reported there on 30th October, with 30 on 13th September.

Three at Malham Tarn on 27th and 28th November were the first winter records for this location.

Definite breeding took place at Fairburn Ings; Blacktoft Sands; Old Denaby and Thorne Moors, with birds present during the breeding season at Broomfleet, Carlton Marsh and Potteric Carr.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

Single birds were reported calling at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 10th April, and at Potteric Carr on 11th May (JED *et al*), whilst at Blacktoft Sands three different individuals were reported; one from 2nd to 8th September, a second from 7th to 21st, and the third from 19th to 24th (AG *et al*).

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Single bird in the Lower Derwent on 13th May (per TED), whilst one was seen near Richmond on 14th July and heard there on 14th and 17th August.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Numbers still very low in the dales of V.C. 64 and in parts of the Harrogate and Leeds areas. Also reported as much scarcer at Fairburn Ings, where the maximum count was 68 on 18th March. 150 were at Sprotbrough Flash in mid November. 52 at Mickletown Ings on 19th January; 60 at Wath on 18th August and 65 at Wentworth on 13th November. 150 were feeding on farmland near Broomfleet on 15th November.

A single bird, present on the Lower Derwent from 1st to 26th January, was considered to be a Moorhen x Coot hybrid.

Coot *Fulica atra*

440 were reported from Bolton-on-Swale on 21st January, with 500 at Pugney's G.P. on the 1st rising to 700 on 17th. Up to 340 at Farnham during this month and 313 at Mickletown Ings on 5th. 470 were reported from Fairburn Ings during March, whilst the count at Pugney's G.P. had decreased to 324 by 2nd.

The autumn build at Fairburn Ings reached 838 in July, whilst at Hornsea Mere 1175 were present on 20th; 1289 at Fairburn Ings on 30th August; 1200 at Hornsea Mere on 28th September; 1040 at Fairburn Ings during October, with 1357 as maximum count in November whilst Hornsea Mere had 1100 on 17th; 1447 at Fairburn Ings on 1st December being the highest count of the year.

480 at Bolton-on-Swale on 22nd September, with c500 at Malham Tarn on 24th October, 519 at Pugney's G.P. on 17th November increasing to 609 on 31st December.

Some movement to the coast noted during the severe weather of January/February with six in Bridlington Harbour on 26th January.

Crane *Grus grus*

A single bird was at Cayton Carrs on 24th April (SC), whilst one was at Tophill Low Res. from 28th to 30th (IF:DEM:PMS). Single to the northwest over Filey on 6th May (HIW), with one flying west over Blacktoft Sands on 10th. Single at Eske on 17th May (BR) with two at Kilnsea on 22nd (PIH).

The records at Cayton Carrs, Tophill Low Res., Filey and Kilnsea have been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee, but the other two records are still under consideration.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

The only breeding reports received from V.C. 61 were from the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area, with at least 10 pairs plus odd pairs breeding or possibly breeding at Riccall; Kexby; Sand Hutton; Bielby and Elvington.

No breeding reports received from V.C. 62 and breeding not proved in V.C. 63.

V.C. 64 had 19 pairs along the River Wharfe between Tadcaster and Ilkley whilst 11 pairs bred at seven sites in the Harrogate area, but no information received from the dales in the north-west of this V.C. Breeding proven at several locations in V.C. 65.

Birds were first reported returning to inland sites near Skipton on 17th February, with several at four other sites by the end of the month. Numbers increased in March with 79 at Kilnsey on 16th; 49 on 9th and 69 on 29th at Masham with 39 in the Ribble Valley on 1st April. 42 were at Bolton-on-Swale on 27th March.

Maxima during the autumn passage were 40 at Bolton-on-Swale on 21st July, with 56 at Masham on 21st and 45 there the following day; 37 at Leyburn Flatts on 17th, and 19 at Nosterfield on 29th and 31st.

Westerly passage at Blacktoft Sands was noted on 17 days between early August and 8th September; 494 birds being counted during this period, with 180 on 6th August being the maximum.

The Birds of the Estuary counts gave a total of 1727 on 13th January; 1108 on 17th February; 1263 on 22nd September and 1760 on 8th December; in all counts virtually all the birds were between Patrington and Spurn, with by far the largest numbers being at Spurn where the monthly maxima for the early and late months of the year were: 2000 on three days during January; 2000 on two days in February, with 1000 on 4th March; 1800 on 30th October, 2500 on 17th November and 1000 on 9th December. 1000+ were also reported on four days during September.

Birds noted coming in off the sea on several days during July, with 403 on 30th whilst southerly passage offshore almost daily from mid July to 10th September. Spurn recorded 173 on 27th July, with 135 at Flamborough on that date; Filey reporting 684 during the last week of this month. The days of heaviest passage being 17th and 18th August with 105 at Filey; 726 at Flamborough, and 589 at Spurn on the former day, whilst the latter date saw 202 at Filey; 470 at Flamborough; 100 at Hornsea and 660 at Spurn.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Two on the Humber at Spurn on 30th January, with a single bird at Kilnsea on 29th May which was seen to come in from the northeast later departing west. What was undoubtedly this bird was reported from Patrington Haven the following day remaining there until at least 1st June (GC:RPC:NAB).

Single bird at Cherry Cobb from 15th to 22nd September (SML).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Again low breeding numbers in V.C. 61 with four locations having five pairs; single pair bred in V.C. 62 though success not recorded; V.C. 63 had 11+ pairs at eight sites whilst at least another 18 pairs were in residence during the breeding season though not proven to have bred; V.C. 64 had 24+ pairs with Fairburn Ings having four pairs though rearing only four young, and some of the others losing young owing to heavy rain in July. Seven pairs reared 10 young in V.C. 65.

The first returning birds reported from Wombwell on 27th March; Pugney's G.P. on 29th; Carlton Marsh and Mickletown Ings on 30th; Thorpe Marsh and Frickley on 31st.

Spring maxima were 11 at Fairburn Ings on 11th May, with eight at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd April, and nine at Wath Ings on 20th.

20 and 23 reported at Nosterfield on 6th and 21st July respectively, with 12 at Aldwarke S.F. on 9th August; 14 at Blacktoft Sands on 29th July and 19 at Wath on 20th July.

Last were singles at Nosterfield on 4th October, and at Wath on 14th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Bred at Riccall, the first record for the York area and at Blacktoft Sands being the first record for that area. Elsewhere breeding at Saltend and Barmston in V.C. 61; Thorne Colliery in V.C. 63; Gouthwaite and Farnham in V.C. 64 and in V.C. 65 at Nosterfield; Masham; Scorton Quarry; Catterick Race Course.

A single bird at Blacktoft Sands on 15th January being unusual, with Spring passage

commencing on 4th February there and at Winterset Res. on 6th, whilst in V.C.s 64 and 65 birds were present from 7th at Nosterfield and 9th at Gouthwaite. 19 were at Blacktoft Sands on 11th March, with passage continuing into June; 16 on 7th May and 35 on 26th, most of which were of the race *C.h. tundrae* as were many of the birds reported from Spurn during this period when the maximum count was 42 on 23rd May. Saltend had peaks of 75 on 19th and 28th May, whilst at Cherry Cobb during this same period the peak count was 646.

Spurn had an autumn maximum of 116 on 22nd August, with 78 on 2nd September, whilst Cherry Cobb had 281 on 31st August. Inland, 10 were at Gouthwaite on 2nd July, with 15 at Nosterfield on 15th; Blacktoft Sands had monthly maxima of 30 in July; 56 on 17th August; 46 on 16th September and 32 on 1st October whilst 10 flew over Blackmoorfoot on 16th September, and 20 were in the Wath area on 22nd.

Unusual numbers at Spurn during October and November, with maxima of 68 and 50 respectively. Numbers at Flamborough during the early and late months being 100 on 13th January, with 86 on 26th and 81 on 17th November and 110 on 28th December.

Southerly passage noted at Spurn in autumn with 172 on 16th August and 48 on 1st September.

18 at Jackson's Bay near Scarborough on 31st December was a high count for that location.

Addition to the 1984 Report: 24 at Redmires Res. on 16th August.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

A single bird reported from Kilnsea ponds on 17th and 18th May was later seen at Spurn being reported from the Point beach on 19th to 22nd. A single male at Flamborough on 12th August was the first record for that location (PAL).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

A return to more normal numbers after 1984. Two were reported from Houndkirk Moor (near Sheffield) on 12th April, with 27 there on 11th May (RF:JH).

21 at Rosedale on 5th May (CB) whilst at Whitley Common five were present from 9th to 11th, and six from 12th to 14th (DJS *et al.*). On this latter date a single flew north at Easington (SLJ), whilst two were present at Spurn these remaining to the following day. A single at Spurn on 19th, with two trips totalling 30 birds reported from Rosedale on 20th (CB). A single at Bampton on 24th and finally, for Spring, three flying north at Flamborough on 10th June (PAL).

A single at Broadstones on 23rd September was the only record for Autumn (NP).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Numbers appeared very low during the breeding season around Huddersfield and V.C. 63 generally; three pairs at Farndale on 16th April.

Numbers during the first three months were lower than usual as a result of the adverse weather with 1425 at Cherry Cobb on 13th January decreasing to seven in the bad weather, only 400 birds on the lower Derwent on 7th February.

1000 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 9th February with 1100 on 25th.

Very small numbers at Fairburn with 50+ on 4th February and 175 at Nosterfield on 2nd. Flamborough on the other hand had high numbers with 643 there on 5th January and 500 on 13th.

Flocks of 'northern' birds, *P.a. albifrons* were reported from Ryther with 652 on 13th April and then decreasing to 450 on 17th and 350+ on 30th when 250+ were at Bishopthorpe. 350 at Langsett in early May were mainly of this race as were the majority of the flock of 303 at Nosterfield on 15th April.

Returning birds were recorded from the end of June, with at Cherry Cobb over 1000 by early August increasing rapidly to 6950 by the 31st, when 700 were at Blacktoft Sands increasing to 1600 by 4th September. The large number at Cherry Cobb increased further to 8050 on 22nd September, with 5300 still present there on 15th December. Numbers at Blacktoft Sands fluctuating during October and November, but 1500 there on 15th December. Wath Ings had 2500 on 21st October, whilst on the same day 3000 were at

Fairburn; the Wath flock decreasing to 600 by early December whilst at Fairburn the flock increased to 5700 by 26th November, with 2500 on 25th December. 1000 at Penny Pot Lane near Harrogate on 20th November increased to 3000 by early December. 1150 at Thorner Lane End, Leeds on 30th October, with 2000 at Edderthorpe on 14th December; 1500 at Carlton Marsh on 19th, and 1300 at Pugney's G.P. during that month.

Numbers on the Lower Derwent were slow to build up, with 1180 on 6th December being the first large count increasing to 1900 on 15th; 2000 on 19th thence 3100 on 25th.

3600 at Leconfield on 15th December, whilst in November at Flamborough, 260 on 12th increased to 1200 the following day only to fall again to 220 on 15th.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Few along the coast with 28 as the monthly maximum in January at Filey, and 19 at Flamborough on 17th of January. Coastal passage was light with 35 in from the north-east at Spurn on 26th May, and 17 south offshore on 14th August. Maxima on the Humber there during the first three and last three months being 20; 35; 29 and 61; 35; 36.

The largest numbers were reported from the Cherry Cobb/Sunk Island area of the Humber; at Cherry Cobb usually less than 100 during the first weeks of the year though 144 on 17th February; 216 on 21st April, on which date 280 flew west at Sunk Island. Numbers then increased rapidly during early May, with 290 on 2nd; 350 on 5th; 565 on 6th, with 595 on 19th falling quickly to 31 on 9th June. A slow build up during late summer/early autumn with 73 on 11th August; 130 on 17th; 157 on 31st with generally lower counts during September, though 189 on 29th increasing to 270 by 20th October, thereafter numbers were quite steady with 225 on 15th December. The Birds of the Estuary counts (Goole to Spurn) gave combined totals of 397 on 13th January; 191 on 17th February; 110 on 22nd September and 383 on 8th December (SML:DBC).

Noted at Blacktoft Sands in all months except June with usually one to two birds being involved, though 13 on 30th September; 45 on 5th October; 86 on 18th October thereafter one to six birds, but 16 to the west on 1st December and 10 south on 2nd.

Probably associated with the westerly movement at Blacktoft Sands on 1st December were 11 birds reported from Pugney's G.P., nine flying west, and one each to south and east all within one hour; single birds also at Blackmoorfoot Res.; Ardsley Res. whilst nine were at Nosterfield. Inland birds were also reported from 15 sites usually singles though one to five at Fairburn Ings between 1st October and 3rd November; four in the Ribble Valley on 23rd September, with 13 there on 9th October. Five at Tophill Low Res. on 10th October.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

In V.C. 61, c35 pairs bred in the Lower Derwent and c20 pairs in the Bielby/Laytham areas. Three pairs at Bempton, probably bred near Paull, and attempted to do so at Saltend and Tophill Low Res. No other details of breeding received. Many birds moved out during the adverse weather of late January and February, with numbers on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge increasing from 950 on 5th February to 3500 by 8th, and 4500 the following day falling to 1000 on 12th. 3000 were on the Lower Derwent on 7th February otherwise counts from other locations being under 1000.

In autumn 2000 were at Aughton on 27th August, with 1500 at Wheldrake on 4th; 1500 at Tophill Low Res. on 25th. 2100 reported from the Refuge on 8th December, with 1000 at Cherry Cobb the same day increasing to 1600+ on 15th. 2550 on the Lower Derwent on 6th December, after which some large counts from North Duffield Carrs with 1500 on 17th; 1800 on 18th; 3000 on 22nd and 5000 on 25th decreasing to 1000 on 27th; 1450 were at Leconfield on 15th. No comments on breeding were received from V.C. 62 whilst the maximum count reported in that V.C. being c800 at Scalby Mills on 4th January.

V.C. 63 had no breeding reports submitted, and with the exception of 2000 at Blacktoft Sands on 4th February numbers were low; 900 at Barnby Dunn on 5th being the next highest count.

750 were at Blacktoft Sands in September, with 2500 there on 15th December; 1400 at Wath Ings on 18th August, with 2200 there from 22nd from 26th November and 2000 on 16th December; 1500 at Edderthorpe on 14th December, with 1000 reported from Hatfield on 22nd October; Thorpe Marsh in late November and at Carlton on 19th November.

V.C. 64 reported a better breeding season than in 1984. As with other V.C.s counts were low during the early months, with 1100 at Pool Meadows on 2nd January, and 1156 at Fairburn Ings on 10th February being the highest.

Autumn counts were quite high, with 1700 at Fairburn on 12th October and 3670 on 18th December; Nosterfield had 1800 in late July, with 1200 on 6th August, and between 1500 and 2000 in November feeding on freshly drilled winter wheat. 1500 at Pool Meadows on 29th October, with 1000 at Penny Pot, Harrogate in early November increasing to 2000 by 20th.

No breeding comments from V.C. 65, with the maximum count being received of 2600 at Bolton-on-Swale on 25th November.

Southerly passage was noted at Spurn during the early months, with 952 on 23rd February and 1525 on 4th March.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Counts for the estuary were 8300 on 13th January; 12500 on 17th February; 479 on 22nd September and 9500 on 8th December whilst outside these dates 2200 were at Cherry Cobb on 3rd March; 600 at Sunk Island on 26th October and 17th November.

Along the coast 800 reported from Primrose Valley during the cold weather of 19th and 20th January, with 380 at Flamborough on 17th; maxima at Spurn during the first three months were 2800 on 2nd January; 3200 on 3rd February, with 400 on 9th March whilst the last three months gave maxima of 300 on 29th October; 4000 on 27th November, and 5000 on 22nd December.

Coastal passage noted at Filey, with 419 to the south on 26th July; 108 to the south at Hornsea on 28th, while 90 were recorded passing south at Spurn on the same date. 159 to south off Flamborough on 16th August, with 107 at Hornsea and 450 at Spurn. A little more unusual were 90 flying east at Saltend (Hull) during snow on 28th December.

Further up the estuary at Blacktoft Sands reported on four days in January, with 18 on 16th; two on 17th and 21 on 18th, most of these moving west. Reported on several days during autumn, with birds on 11 days in August, maximum of seven on 30th; 13 days in September, with 31 on 18th and on six days in October with nine on 5th.

Single birds were reported from 18 inland sites spread over all months except June. Reports of more than a single bird were received from Norton Grove with seven on 6th February; Aughton with two on 14th July, and Eccup with seven on 1st September.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Numbers along the coast between Bridlington and Barmston were low in January with 170 on 7th and 57 on 19th, however during this period higher than usual counts were received from Hornsea with 29; Holmpton with 67 and Withernsea with 50+. The flock near Bridlington had increased to 165 by 23rd February. During the later months numbers were lower with c90 between Filey (Butlins) and Hunmanby on 24th November and 59 to the south of Bridlington on 28th December. At Filey numbers built up to between 93 and 103 during December. 60 were in Jackson's Bay near Scarborough on 3rd November, with 92 there on 27th, a very high count for this location.

Monthly maxima at Spurn during the winter months being 20 in January; 24 in February; 30 in March; 90 in October on 16th, decreasing to 70 on 17th and 50 on 18th; 40 in November, and 17 in December (on 30th). Spring peak was 70 on 4th May, whilst in autumn 99 on 4th August.

Coastal passage of 18 south at Hornsea on both 27th July and 14th August, with 25 south at Spurn on 20th July and 77 on 15th August.

Seven at Saltend on 24th April, with four there on 29th May, only single birds on three days at Blacktoft Sands.

Inland, reported from eight locations, fewer than usual, with six at Nosterfield on 4th May, three at Fairburn Ings on 25 May on which date two were at Eccup and a single bird at Nosterfield.

Semi-palmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

A single adult was present at Easington lagoons on 13th August (NAB:ML:PS). This being the second record for Yorkshire.

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

The wintering bird at Blacktoft Sands was present until 13th January whilst two were reported from Flamborough on 20th January.

Spring birds were noted from Blacktoft Sands, with a single on 19th May and two from 2nd to 4th June. Two at Fairburn Ings on 25th, and up to four at Nosterfield on 4th and 6th June.

The first of the autumn were single birds at Staveley on 7th July; Pugney's G.P. on 15th; Gouthwaite on 20th and Kilnsea ponds on 23rd, whilst at Blacktoft Sands one was present from 18th to 23rd. Birds were reported almost daily from Blacktoft Sands during the period early August to 3rd November, with eight by 31st August increasing to 17 on 6th September; 25 on 7th and 33 on 10th, with 44 on 30th and 72 on 2nd October, with a rapid decrease to single figures by 11th and up to eight until 27th October. Saltend had one to two birds on many days during September, with an influx on 22nd when 16 were present down to five on the following day, and 24th, seven on 25th and 26th; three on 28th, with six and five on the following two days. Three to four daily from 2nd to 8th October, with single birds on five further days to 2nd November. Five at Flamborough on 11th August, with three the following day and four on 20th. Kilnsea had three on 12th August; three on 6th September and four on 24th, whilst at Cherry Cobb five were reported on 22nd September, and four on 13th October.

Three at Tophill Low Res. on 27th September; three at Filey on 23rd September.

Eight at Broomfleet on 22nd August, with five to the south offshore at Hornsea on 14th.

Five at Mickletown Ings on 22nd September, with a similar count in the Ribble Valley on 23rd September.

One to two birds between early August and late October from a further seven locations.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Singles at Saltend on 14th May (SB:SLJ); at Blacktoft Sands on 29th and 30th May; 2nd and 3rd June and 28th June to 1st July (AG); at Skipton S.F. on 17th August (GWP); at Blacktoft Sands from 22nd to 27th September (AG), and Saltend on 29th (SLJ).

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

A single bird reported at Kilnsea ponds on 7th August (SML) was also seen that day at Spurn and again the following day back at Kilnsea.

One was present at Blacktoft Sands from 28th August to 14th September, with another bird there from 26th September to 11th October (JMB:AG:DP:SH:RJA).

The above records have been accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

A single bird at Kilnsea ponds on 21st July was also seen there on 26th and 27th (NAB:SML). A second bird was present at the same locality from 24th to 30th August (NAB).

Additions to the 1984 Report: Singles at Blacktoft Sands from 23rd to 27th June; from 21st to 29th July; from 2nd to 4th September, and from 20th to 22nd September.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

A single at Saltend on 17th May was the only spring record.

Between 25th July and the end of month single birds were reported from Spurn; Kilnsea and Blacktoft Sands. An early peak was 11 at Kilnsea on 19th August, with numbers increasing at Blacktoft Sands quickly during the latter part of this month to give 44 on 31st, whilst 16 were at Cherry Cobb on this date.

During September birds were widespread, with six at Saltend and 22 at Kilnsea on 1st; five

at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough, seven at Tophill Low Res. and eight at Saltend on 2nd; eight at Tophill, 16 at Saltend and 18 at Kilnsea on 3rd; 10 at Tophill, 16 at Saltend and 21 at Kilnsea on 4th; 85 at Blacktoft Sands, 10 at Tophill, with birds further inland at Wath where 12 were reported, and Nosterfield with six, on 5th; increase at Nosterfield to 21 on 6th whilst numbers at Tophill remained almost constant though increasing to 13 by 8th, when 15 were in the Ribble Valley, 20 at Spurn, three at Fairburn and eight at Mickletown; 10th saw seven at Tophill, 18 at Fairburn, 18 in the Ribble Valley and 107 at Blacktoft Sands; an increase at Saltend to 44 on 11th, and again to 67 the following day decreasing to 59 on 14th, and 39 on 15th, with 24 at Cherry Cobb, and five at Fairburn on that date; 92 at Blacktoft Sands on 17th; 34 at Saltend on 18th, with nine at Wath Ings; 168 were counted along the Humber estuary on 22nd, with almost all the birds being at Blacktoft Sands, Saltend or Cherry Cobb. Nine were at Wath on this date. 41 to 42 present at Saltend to 25th when seven were reported from Jackson's Bay; 20 at Saltend on 29th. Numbers decreased at Blacktoft Sands from 36 on 1st October to 13 on 15th, with the last bird there on 26th. The flock at Saltend had also decreased during this period to 13 on 10th thence up to six until 29th, with two on 18th November. One to three birds were also reported from nine other sites inland during September.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

A single in breeding plumage at Fairburn Ings from 20th to 23rd May (GRW:HJW), and a single at Blacktoft Sands on 18th October, were the only records away from the coast.

Jackson's Bay at Scarborough had 105 on 4th January, with 120+ on 29th thereafter smaller numbers, with 70 on 20th April: during the later months counts were lower with 30 there on 3rd November whilst 42 were on ledges on Scarborough East Pier on 25th October.

Filey had the largest counts, with monthly maxima of 250 in January; 160 in February; 312 during March; 410 in April and 200 in May; numbers also lower during the later months, with generally between 27 and 80 except for 100 as the monthly maximum for November. 66 were at Flamborough on 12th January, with other monthly maxima of 34 on 23rd February; 48 on 9th March; 35 on 17th November and 40 on 29th December.

Maxima on Bridlington Harbour wall of 63 on 7th January and 69 on 19th December.

16 flew north off Hornsea on 26th November whilst one to three were reported from the beach at Hornsea, Withernsea and Spurn, with five offshore at the last locality on 30th October.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Birds of the Estuary counts gave totals of 13,500 on 13th January; 10,500 on 17th February; 9,500 on 22nd September with 13,900 on 8th December (per DBC:SML). Counts along the coast generally low with the exception of c1000 at Filey during January, and 100+ in the Scarborough district during the early part of that month. Spurn had maxima, on the Humber, of 1,000 on 19th January; 1,200 on 23rd February; no count in March and 650 on 10th April, with 1,080 on 4th May; 450 on 19th September; 1,100 on 9th October; 800 on 8th November and 1,200 on 9th December.

Passage was noted along the coast, with 757 off Filey; 611 at Flamborough and 199 at Spurn on 1st December, on which date many birds were reported inland, with 25 in the Ribble Valley; 23 at Swillington; 145 to the south-west over Pugney's G.P.; 56 at Wath Ings and 50 at Ardsley Res.

Cherry Cobb reported large numbers throughout the winter months, with 4,240 on 13th January; 4,900 on 17th February; 5,460 on 21st April; 8,350 on 28th then 4,500 on 6th May, 3,480 on 19th decreasing to 670 on 24th. Increase there in July from 350 on 18th to 1,630 on 30th; 2,250 on 13th October, with 6,000+ on 8th December. A colour marked bird there on 19th May had been marked earlier that spring on the Banc d'Arguin (Mauretania).

Smaller numbers than usual during the winter at Blacktoft Sands, with the exception of 660 on 10th March; 250 being the highest count during April, with 530 on 4th May. 705 on 30th September; 1,370 on 17th October then decreasing to between 110 and 120 during the last two months.

The Lower Derwent held good numbers during the first three months, with 120 at

Wheldrake on 1st January; 350 at North Duffield on 5th February, with 200 at East Cottingwith and 150 at Storwood on 11th; 30 to 50 were reported from many locations in this area during the spring, with 150 at Aughton on 19th April. Low numbers during the later months though 220 at North Duffield on 17th December and 400 there on 19th with 350 on 25th.

Small numbers at many locations in V.C.s 63 and 64, with maxima of 24 at Wath on 27th October; 29 there on 20th and 26th November; 58 at Fairburn Ings on 5th May; c40 in the Ribble Valley on 23rd September; 26 at Mickletown Ings on 20th September; 31 on 15th and 28th December; 43 at Bolton-on-Swale on 10th January.

Few comments received on breeding though c15 pairs at Shaking Moss (near Hawes) and the usual sites in both V.C. 63 and 64.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

Two, coming into summer plumage, at Saltend on 22nd May were last seen there on 29th with a third bird present on 27th (SG:SLJ *et al*).

A description of one on 25th May accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee, other descriptions are under consideration.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Trygnites subruficollis*

Single bird at Kilnsea ponds on 18th September (STR:PR:IK), with a single at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd and 24th (AG *et al*).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

In the early months, a single at Ingbirchworth Res. on 1st January; seven at Wheldrake on 9th, single at Saltend on 15th, with two from 16th to 18th thence a single to 20th when also a single at Cherry Cobb; three at Ellerton on 22nd. 30 along the Lower Derwent on 7th February with 17 at Wheldrake on 10th and 10+ at East Cottingwith on the same day. Five at Cherry Cobb on 24th.

Large numbers along the Lower Derwent in spring with 100+ at one site on several days with peaks of 119 on 22nd April and 120 on 29th; 10 males, and five females were present at a lek at this site on 15th May; a second site had up to 92 birds during the later part of April with lekking observed. A third site held 11 males and one female on 12th April. It is considered possible that this species bred in the Lower Derwent.

Numbers elsewhere were low during the spring, with maxima of 11 on 13th April and 21 on 19th at Blacktoft Sands, whilst nine were at Broomhill Flash on 18th, and six at Fairburn Ings on 22nd April.

Good numbers reported along the estuary during the autumn, with both Blacktoft Sands and Cherry Cobb featuring well. The former had 32 by 27th July increasing to 52 on 15th August; 55 on 31st thence 120 on 5th September, with a peak of 156 on 15th decreasing to 142 on 2nd October; 119 on 25th then 52 on 9th November down to 14 on 15th December. Cherry Cobb had 62 on 15th September, with 105 on 22nd and 26 on 29th. Elsewhere counts were low with 16 at Wath on 3rd September; 19 on 23rd September in Ribble Valley; 11 at Fairburn on 23rd October; 25 at Bolton-on-Swale on 16th September.

Wintering birds returned to the Lower Derwent on 6th December, with a single at Aughton then 22 at North Duffield on 19th, with 25 there on 25th, and 12 at East Cottingwith on 30th; single at Eccup on 29th December.

Southerly passage noted on Spurn, with six on 20th August and eight on 1st September. 11 were on the rocks at Scalby Mills on 5th September.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Noted at 40 sites during the period to 18th May, and again from 15th September. Invariably sightings were of single birds though occasionally two, with few seen into May with the last at Bransholme on 18th. The first of the autumn was at Thrybergh on 15th September, and again most reports were of singles though four were at Fairburn on 25th October; four at Spurn on 1st November and three at Fairburn on 23rd October.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Reported as breeding as usual along the Lower Derwent, with c30 pairs recorded during a sample count at Aughton and part of Ellerton Ings. V.C. 64 reported a very poor breeding year especially for the lowland birds. No other comments received.

Both V.C. 63 and 64 reported lower than usual counts during the early months with 89 at Worsborough on 3rd February; 69 at Carlton Marsh on 9th March; 50 at Dewsbury S.F. on 16th February; 45 on 30th March at Wath; 72 at Fairburn on 10th March was the highest count there and the only count above the 36 at Esholt on 16th March; though numbers in V.C. 61 were generally low during these same months there were some isolated high counts, with 136 at Flamborough on 15th January; 90 at East Cottingham on 11th February, and 90 between Bubwith and Aughton on 17th, whilst 82 at Flamborough on 20th and 27th January, and 80 there on 10th March; 150 near Melbourne on 20th March and 110 at Wheldrake on 5th April. The highest count of the year came from a small pond at Strensall with 260 on 7th February. Up to 101 at Spurn during the middle of January.

Numbers during the later months of the year were more normal, with 129 at Fairburn on 12th October; c150 along the Ribble Valley during August and c200 there during September. High counts at Flamborough during November, with 105 on 20th; 147 on the following day increasing to 225 on 22nd and 260 on 30th decreasing rapidly, with a peak in December of 65 on 28th.

90 were present at Wath by 30th September, with 110 on 2nd October; 75 at Blacktoft Sands on 28th September increasing to 115 on 1st October, thence 50 on 1st November.

Counts along the Lower Derwent were low with 50 at East Cottingham on 30th December.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Breeding status would appear to be unchanged with roding birds reported from many localities. An influx noted along the east coast with 'large numbers' being reported by the keepers at Rise and Burton Constable during mid January (per BS & SP). A similar influx in late February brought 19 birds to one small part of Hornsea Mere on 24th.

A single bird flushed on 2nd April from 1700 feet a.s.l. on Great Whernside.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Two pairs bred along the Lower Derwent with a third pair present during the breeding season.

Winter birds were reported from Cherry Cobb, with four there on 13th January after which birds were reported there regularly until mid May; one to three usually involved. Inland single birds were at Sprotbrough Flash on 14th January and Fairburn Ings on 21st. Occasionally reported from Sunk Island during the winter months, and which would no doubt concern the birds from Cherry Cobb.

The first returning birds were reported from the Lower Derwent on 17th March, with the first at Blacktoft Sands on 27th. Spring passage on the Derwent was light, with early May maxima of 14 at one location on 1st, and nine at another on both 2nd and 3rd. Blacktoft Sands had a spring peak of 22 on 30th April.

Slightly more reports from the autumn, with birds present at Blacktoft Sands from 29th June to 1st October; five being present on the first date; eight to the west on 14th July; 14 from 21st to 26th August, and 13 on 15th September; four on 5th November. Seven to the west over Thorpe Marsh on 14th July may be connected with the birds at Blacktoft Sands on the same day. Five at Wath on 20th July and nine to north-west there on 8th September.

Few records from V.C. 64 with single birds being reported from seven locations though in the extreme north 11 flew over Leighton Res. on 1st December.

Three reports of birds in spring at Bolton-on-Swale, with a single on 5th April, seven on 19th, and three on 26th.

V.C. 61; away from the Derwent, had birds daily at Cherry Cobb from the first two on 6th July through to the end of the year, with 20 on 29th September; 18 on 13th October, with six still present during early December. Saltend had one to seven from 7th September to 24th November. Single birds reported from five other locations during the autumn.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Coastal passage was light with only 5th and 6th September producing more than 20 birds. On the former date 70 flew south off Scalby Mills, with 44 at Flamborough and 76 at Spurn, whilst on the following day 49 were reported from Filey and 23 at Hornsea. Monthly maxima at Spurn on the Humber being 41 in September and 30 during October.

As usual the largest numbers occurred at Cherry Cobb, with good counts also recorded at Blacktoft Sands and Saltend. 990 were at Cherry Cobb on 13th January when the whole of the estuary held 1,073, and 970 at Cherry Cobb on 17th February out of a total estuary count of 1,353. Numbers at Cherry Cobb declined to 155 on 17th March increasing again to 470 on 21st April, with 285 present on 6th May; thereafter over 120 through to 6th July, and 89 on 21st though only 23 there during August increasing to 193 during the latter half of September, then 160 on 13th October; 192 on 30th November, with 470 on both 7th and 8th December.

Blacktoft Sands had only two single birds during the first months of the year, with eight to the west there on 1st July as the next followed by a total of 158 passing west on 20 days up to 10th September, with 28 on 10th September, and 24 on 9th August as maxima. Roosting birds there during September were counted as 209 on 15th; 205 on 20th; 170 on 1st October, and 139 on 18th, whilst 131 were reported flying west on 12th October.

Recorded at Saltend during all months with the exception of December; 105 on 11th May being the maximum during spring; 88 on 8th September had increased to 107 on 11th; 190 on 14th and 180 on 18th, then decreasing to under 100 except for 121 on 24th, further decreasing to between 50 and 70 until 13th October, then single figures to the end of the month.

79 flew west at Sunk Island on 8th September.

Small numbers reported from 14 inland localities with 11 at Leighton Res. on 1st December; five at Bolton Tip on 24th August; six west at Pugney's G.P. on 30th August; and seven west there on 6th September.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

The first of the year was at Filey on 25th March followed by a single at Burniston on 31st, though most localities reported their first birds on or about 9th April.

The Lower Derwent reported a better than usual spring passage with 20 at Wheldrake on 20th April, then 11 there from 23rd to 25th; nine over Melbourne on 4th May, with 10 at Wheldrake the following day, and 17 at Aughton on 11th. 27 were feeding at Filey Dams on 9th being seen to move off to the north.

Spurn had a record 80 on 9th May, though it is considered that many more birds were involved, and as many as 130 could have been present, otherwise 10 to 25 on the following three days. In V.C. 63, 19 were recorded at Winterset Res. on 10th May, with 17 to the north at Sprotbrough on 11th whilst Wath had 11 on 9th. 33 were reported from Spurn on 18th July, with 18 at Flamborough on 23rd on which day 16 flew west at Blacktoft Sands. 73 flew south at Spurn on 22nd, with 52 to the south there on 27th and 31st; 21 at Filey on 26th, with 18 west at Blacktoft Sands the same day.

44 were reported over Fairburn on 11th August, whilst the following day large numbers were reported along the coast with 77 at Flamborough and 132 at Spurn. 76 at Flamborough on 14th; 44 at Spurn on 24th. On 4th September 24 flew north at Filey, with 25 south the following day when 31 were seen flying south at Spurn, the last being a single bird at Spurn on 16th October.

18 north-west over Thrybergh on 9th September.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Breeding, in all areas, was reported as normal.

Winter numbers away from the coast were low with the exception of 193 on 10th January at Bolton-on-Swale; 2–300 feeding throughout winter at Bellerby Moor roosted on Leyburn Flatts; 70 near Ilkley during January and February. Increased during March, with 150 in the Ribble Valley on 10th; 230 at Nosterfield on 20th and c200 on Austwick Moss on 25th.

Later months recorded 170+ at Malham Tarn on 7th June, increasing to 470 on 13th, with

350+ on Denton Moor during June and 200+ in the Denton/Askwith Moor area in early August. 500 were on Bellerby Moor on 8th August.

The Birds of the Estuary counts gave totals of 1,047 on 13th January; 1,472 on 17th February; 2,795 on 22nd September and 1,451 on 8th December. As usual Cherry Cobb had the highest counts with over 500 birds present during all months except April to June, with a maximum count of 3,750 on 31st August. During the early months numbers were only a little above 500, with maximum of 798 on 17th March; decreased to low double figures during mid May thence slowly increasing throughout June to 470 by the end of the month, thence 1,070 on 6th July and after the very high counts of late August 1,550 on 15th September; 2,015 on 22nd, 1,620 on 13th October, with 1,000+ still present on 8th December. Peak counts at Sunk Island of 700 on 17th August and 800 on 5th October.

1,180 were counted flying west at Blacktoft Sands on 48 days between 9th June and 11th September, with peaks of 233 on 1st July and 344 the following day.

176 were seen to fly northeast on 19th April at Spurn, with 39 in off the sea there on 9th July.

An albino was reported frequently at Stone Creek between 27th January and 17th March.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

A wintering bird was observed at Blacktoft Sands from 1st to 4th January, and one also there during December with two on 4th.

In general, a poor year, after the first at Fairburn on 11th March. Single birds were reported from many locations, with two at five sites and three birds as follows: Fairburn on 20th April; at Cherry Cobb on 23rd June; Flamborough on 17th August and Wath Ings from 29th August to 1st September.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Breeding in the Derwent Valley appeared to be unchanged as it was in V.C. 63, with the exception of the Huddersfield area where none was proven. V.C. 64 had a mixed year, with normal breeding on the high ground though poor lower down due to wet weather and high water levels.

The Humber Estuary counts gave totals of 1,263 on 13th January; 1,454 on 17th February; 3,021 on 22nd September and 1,288 on 8th December. Cherry Cobb held between 270 and 490 during the first three months increasing during late April to 1,080 on 21st thence falling to 23 by 19th May, numbers having increased to 290 by 6th July, 950 on 21st, 1,350 on 31st, with the maximum of the year being 1,650 on 22nd December thence decreasing to 457 on 8th December.

Monthly maxima on the Humber at Spurn during the early and late months being: 187 on 13th January; 160 on 17th February; 600 on 30th March; 500 on 5th April; 600 on 22nd September; 500 on 2nd October; 329 on 1st November and 190 on 9th December.

120 were at Filey during March and 113 during December, with 138 at Flamborough on 25th August; 146 there on 24th November.

Blacktoft Sands had peaks of 82 on 21st August; 129 during September and 180 on 1st October.

Little southerly movement along the coast with 66 at Spurn on 24th August.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

A single bird flew to the east over Spurn on 21st August (NAB). The first record for Yorkshire.

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A single bird was reported from Fairburn Ings on 5th January being seen there also on 3rd, 20th, 26th and 27th February. A second bird seen between Holmpton and Easington on 6th January.

Occasional single birds in V.C. 64 during March, with the main passage taking place during April. Eight were reported from Blacktoft Sands on 18th April, with 12 at

Wheldrake the following day; five were at Aughton on 24th; eight at Elvington on 28th; 11 at Wheldrake on 29th. Up to five were recorded at Fairburn during this period.

Six at Saltend on 4th June thereafter records became widespread from early July, with 10 at Blacktoft Sands on 14th August; 13 at Fairburn and 14 at Tophill Low Res. on 18th; 11 at Mickletown Ings on 24th; 11 at Wath on 26th; 12 in the Ribble Valley on 30th; 14 to the south-west at Thrybergh on 2nd September and 10 at Sunk Island on 28th. One to six were recorded from a further 23 sites during this period.

Fairburn Ings held one to two birds until the end of the year, with two being reported at Mickletown Ings on 3rd November most likely being from Fairburn. A single bird at Pulfen Bog on 22nd December was no doubt the bird which appeared briefly at Tophill Low Res. on 26th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Wintering birds were recorded from 29 locations, usually single birds though up to three at Wath Ings during January; three at Knostrop S.F. on 3rd December and six at Edderthorpe on 22nd February. Four at Bentley Tilts on 14th December.

Spring passage was light with no more than three birds from any location.

Autumn, however, saw good numbers at many sites with well over 50 reporting birds, many of these having up to 10. Tophill Low Res. had possibly their best year ever with three on 23rd June thence increasing to 11 on 5th July; 17 on 9th; 20 on 19th and 21 on 29th. Frequently 15 present during August, with peaks of 23 on 3rd, 27 on 21st and 24 on 26th. 17 were recorded on 3rd September, with 22 on 5th thence a gradual decrease to six at the end of the month. Elsewhere in V.C. 61, 12 were on Sunk Island on 10th August, with 11 at Melbourne on 15th July and 13 there on 10th and 13th August.

V.C. 63: 13 at Wath Ings on 8th July, with 15 by the end of the month, and 13 in August, 15 on 25th and 28th September, with 16 on 1st October. 11 were at Blacktoft Sands on 1st August and 13 on 17th.

11 at Fairburn Ings on 30th August the maximum count in V.C. 64, whilst five at Nosterfield was the highest count for V.C. 65 (31st July).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

A single bird at Gallaber on 29th and 30th April was the first followed by a single at Spurn on 5th and at Blacktoft Sands on 6th. Single birds recorded at Sprotbrough, Hornsea Mere, Wheldrake and Elvington on 11th; from Wath, Hornsea Mere, Bransholme on 12th; Wheldrake and Wath on 13th; Wath, Blacktoft Sands and Flamborough on 14th thence Wath again on 17th, and Pugney's G.P. on 23rd and 24th. Singles in June at Spurn, on 10th; Sutton on Derwent on 16th and Rivelin on 30th.

Between 5th July and 26th August, single birds were reported from 18 localities with two birds at Blacktoft Sands on 11th, 19th and 26th August; at Tophill Low Res. on 4th August; two at Fairburn on the same day; at Spurn on 17th, with three there on 16th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Breeding in the Leyburn Flatts area probably reduced due to flooding though breeding status in V.C. 63 apparently unchanged.

A single bird over-wintered at Broomhead Res. being seen from 2nd to 17th January, with another at Howden Res. on 6th January. Single birds at Harthill Res. on 3rd March; Knotford Nook on 13th March and Fairburn Ings on 30th and 31st March.

The main arrival was on 8th and 9th April, with birds being reported from several locations in V.C.s 61, 63 and 64. 24 were reported from Gouthwaite on 4th May, with nowhere else recording double figures.

Autumn peaks were 44 at Gouthwaite on 12th July, with 12 at Eccup the same day. 12 were also at Leyburn Flatts on 7th, with 10 at Riccall on 6th August.

Three birds were still present at Riccall on 17th November, with one of these remaining until the end of the year.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

The first months of the year saw the highest totals ever reported in Yorkshire when roosts at Filey Brigg attained 778 on 9th March, then between 900 and 1,000 on 8th April (PJD:FN).

Elsewhere, 178 were in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 4th January, with 200 there on 29th and 258 on 20th April. 288 were counted between Scarborough Harbour and Gristhorpe Wyke on 12th January. Flamborough had over 100 on three days in October, with a peak of 140 on 25th, whilst at Spurn 200 was the maximum being recorded on 30th September, 1st October and 13th October. 34 were at Cherry Cobb/Stone Creek on 19th May, with 16 at Paull on 31st August.

Inland up to four birds were reported from 16 sites, with eight north-east at Thrybergh on 2nd September; seven at Wath Ings on 3rd, and 19 south-west over Eccup on 1st December, with eight over Wath Ings which were also reported later that day at Thrybergh.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

A single adult male was present at Horbury Wyke on 2nd June (JRS). Three at Flamborough on 1st November (AMA:PAL).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Single birds were reported from Flamborough on 1st and 7th January (PAL:AMA); Filey Brigg on 20th and 27th January (AG:JAP:HJW); Flamborough on 1st November (PAL); Cornelian Bay on 27th November (RHA), and Flamborough on 28th and 29th December (AMA: DGH:JCL).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Single birds were reported from Flamborough on 17th March; 10th and 21st April with two on 28th. Single there on 12th June, with four on 15th and single on 22nd; single on 9th July, with two on 22nd, singles on 23rd and 27th on which date the first bird was reported off Hornsea, with another single bird at Hornsea on 28th and one at Spurn. Two at Flamborough on 30th and seven on 31st. During August two birds were recorded at Kettleness on 5th; 15 birds at Flamborough, mainly singles though four on both 17th and 26th; five at Hornsea and three at Filey.

September saw three single birds in the Scarborough area; one at Filey; one to two birds at Hornsea on six days, with slightly more birds at Flamborough where five were recorded on 4th, eight on 9th, five on 11th and six on 20th.

A large increase in numbers during October, with heavy passage in the middle of the month; 14 were recorded at Flamborough on 11th, with 107 there the following day when 12 were at Filey, and eight at Hornsea, though none at Spurn. 27 at Flamborough on 13th and 28 on 19th; 22 on 22nd when nine were off Spurn; 21 on 23rd and five at Spurn; 11 at Spurn on 25th with eight there on 26th, when 16 were reported from Filey. On the 29th, 64 were counted at Flamborough, with 95 at Hornsea and 41 at Spurn; 38 at Flamborough on 30th with six at Spurn, then on 31st, 30 at Filey, 79 at Flamborough and 10 at Spurn.

Even larger numbers were reported during November, probably the largest numbers reported this century, and even possibly approaching the 'Skua' gale of 14th October 1879. 17 were reported from Flamborough on 1st, with eight at Spurn; the following day saw 108 off Filey, with a further 31 unidentified skuas whilst Flamborough had 304 and Spurn 54; 36 at Flamborough, and 18 at Hornsea on 3rd. 86 at Flamborough on 6th when 18 flew north off Scarborough.

A lull then until 10th when the largest passage of the year took place with c170 at Filey; 330 at Flamborough and 121 at Spurn though possibly as many as 180 at the last location. Six at Spurn on the 11th, with 28 on 12th at Flamborough, when 16 were off Filey. On the 19th, 36 were at Flamborough with 27 on 20th; 19 on 23rd; 21 on 24th.

Small numbers during December with two at Flamborough on 1st, when a single bird was reported from both Burniston and Filey. Two at Flamborough on 6th, with a single at Filey on 13th, and 11 to the north off Hornsea on 26th.

Away from the coast, three birds flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd September, whilst at Saltend a single flew in the same direction on 25th. Single to the north-west at Thrybergh on

13th October, whilst on 10th November birds were reported from many locations. Singles were at Tophill Low Res., Wath Ings, Midhope Res., Agden Res., Howden Res.; two at Eccup, two at Knaresborough Ringing Station, two at Thrybergh; four at Pugney's G.P. were later seen over Scout Dyke Res.; six at Staveley. Two flew east at Blacktoft Sands. Single bird over Eccup on 11th. 15 flew west at Saltend during the morning of the 18th, with 45 there on 19th thence singles on 20th, 23rd and 24th, with three on 30th followed by a single bird on 2nd December. The day after one was seen feeding on a dead pig at Cherry Cobb, and what may have been this same bird seen at Saltend on 8th December.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A single bird was reported at Filey on one date in January, and on one in February. Four were at the same locality on 11th April, thereafter six at Hornsea on 27th when seven were reported from Spurn, with seven there the following day when six were off Flamborough.

Few records during May with three birds at Spurn and a single at Flamborough, whilst away from the coast single birds were recorded at Blacktoft Sands on 14th, Saltend on 23rd and at Fairburn on 27th. Five single birds at Spurn during June with one to three birds being reported towards the end of the month from Flamborough; inland a single bird at Swinden Plantation in the Little Don Valley on 22nd.

Numbers increased during July, with 19 at Flamborough on 23rd, 21 there on 30th and 43 on 31st, while at Spurn up to 30 were recorded during the last five days of the month.

154 at Spurn on 5th August, with 91 at Flamborough on 6th; 127 at the latter site on 16th and 376 there on 17th, when 169 were reported from Spurn. 100 at Flamborough on 21st, with 176 on 24th, 355 on 25th and 903 on 26th; this being the highest count for Yorkshire this century and the highest ever for Flamborough. Spurn reported 100 on this day whilst 229 passed Filey. 137 at Flamborough on 27th.

368 at Flamborough on 1st September, with 228 at Filey and 182 at Spurn; 155 at Flamborough on 3rd; 264 there on 4th; 328 on 5th, with 120 at Spurn; Flamborough then reported the following counts: 159 on 6th, 112 on 7th, 100 on 8th, 211 on 11th, 330 on 15th, 336 on 16th, 154 on 18th, after which between 50 and 94 daily to the end of the month. Smaller counts at Filey and Spurn, with neither location reporting over 100 after the 5th.

Quite scarce at Flamborough during October, with only 178 birds being recorded throughout the month, 48 on 12th being the maximum count whereas at Spurn 45 on 12th, with up to 24 on other days during the month.

23 were at Flamborough on 2nd November, with 14 at Spurn on 6th and seven off Hornsea on 10th. Single at Flamborough on 23rd was the last there whilst Spurn had a single bird the following day, and one on 22nd December.

A surprisingly contrasting year at Filey and Flamborough with the former location reporting a 'low' year – 1,454 birds being recorded between July and November, while Flamborough reported the finest year ever with a total of 6,498 birds being recorded.

Along the Humber recorded quite frequently with nine at Sunk Island on 31st August, and eight at Cherry Cobb the same day. 16 flew west off Sunk Island on 7th September, with five there the following day. 10 were at Saltend on 11th and 12th; 15 at Sunk Island on 14th, with 33 at Saltend the same day declining to 10 the next day when seven were at both Cherry Cobb, and Sunk Island (obviously many of these birds being reported from all three locations). Six were at Saltend on 6th October, with a single bird on 10th November, another on 17th and 19th, with three on 20th, and a single in the area on 23rd and 26th. A single, possibly the same, at Cherry Cobb on 30th and 8th December.

Inland, a juvenile at Wath Ings on 3rd August, two at Esholt on 26th, four at Rathmell on 1st September, single at Blackmoorfoot on 4th, three to the west over Fairburn Ings on the same day, whilst a juvenile over Concord Park, Sheffield on 7th, three at Esholt on 18th October, thence one at Gouthwaite on 2nd November, when two flew over Knaresborough Ringing Station; singles on 10th at Eccup and Potteric Carr, with two at Thrybergh and finally a single at Fairburn Ings on 13th.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

As with the previous two species the best year this century.

A single adult at Flamborough on 29th June (AMA:DGH), with another there on 5th August (PAL:MP), adult on 7th (PAL), immature on 17th (DGH:PAL:MJP), single at Spurn on 26th.

In September, an adult and immature at Flamborough on 7th (PAL); an adult at Hornsea on 8th (GRB), with a similar aged bird at Flamborough the following day (PAL). An adult and immature at Flamborough on 11th (PAL), with two adults and two immatures on 13th (PAL); two adults and an immature the following day, with single immatures on 15th and 21st (AMA:PAL: DGH:JCL), two immatures on 25th (PAL).

Single at Spurn on 1st October, with an adult and immature at Flamborough on 5th (AMA:PAL), immature there on 12th whilst an adult was reported from Hornsea the same day (GRB). Three immatures off Flamborough (AMA:DGH:PAL), and a single off Hornsea on 13th (GRB); immature at Flamborough on 14th (JCL), with three adults and six immatures there on 19th (AG:PAL); single immature on 20th with five on 22nd (PAL); two immatures off Hornsea on 23rd (GRB); two adults and three immatures off Flamborough, and an adult at Hornsea on 29th (AMA:PAL:JCL:GRB). Single adult at Flamborough on 30th (AMA:PAL).

Two adults off Flamborough on 2nd November (AMA:DGH:PAL), with an adult off Hornsea on 9th and two immatures there the following day (GRB).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Single birds at Flamborough on 3rd January and 3rd March; four there on 21st and 28th April, with 12 on 5th May. Singles on 1st, 7th and 13th June, with five on 15th. Slightly more records in July, with 10 on 23rd and nine on 31st, whilst at Spurn single birds were reported on 1st, 6th and 9th, with two on 30th, and three the following day. During August Spurn recorded up to six regularly, while at Flamborough 25 were reported on 11th, with 45 on 17th, 21 on 24th, 40 on 26th and 26 on 27th. Filey had nine on 26th which was the highest count of the month there.

Up to seven regularly at Spurn during the first half of September, with up to six almost daily during the latter half; Flamborough on the other hand had 40 on 8th, 49 on 14th, 32 on 16th, 47 on 20th and 29 on 22nd; eight were reported off Hornsea on 6th.

October saw fewer birds with 46 off Flamborough on 12th, and 14 on 13th whilst Filey reported up to 18 mid month; 12 to north off Hornsea on 19th, with nine there on 29th; during the later days of this month Spurn recorded up to 12 birds.

Scarce at Flamborough during November, with six on 2nd and 18 on 10th, when Filey had their highest count of the year, with 24 and Hornsea reported 16. Spurn had three on 18th, and five on 19th.

Single birds at Filey on 22nd and 26th December.

Along the Humber a single bird flew east off Sunk Island on 21st September, whilst at Saltend a single was reported on 10th September, with three on 11th and a single the following day. Singles on 6th October, 19th and 22nd November. Two flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 18th September, with a single to west there on 18th November.

Inland single birds were reported from Eccup on 3rd August; Malham Tarn on 20th September and Thrybergh on 2nd October.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Spurn had a single adult on 2nd, 3rd and 13th January, with one on 23rd February. A second-year bird on 1st April, with an adult on 7th. Adult on 5th May, second-year bird on 24th August and two adults on 25th September.

A single second-winter bird was present at Hornsea from 1st January to at least early March occasionally being joined by a second bird of same age. An adult frequented the same location from mid August to end of year and was no doubt one of these birds. An adult was occasionally reported from Bridlington Harbour during both winters, whilst at Flamborough a first-summer bird was recorded on 17th April, with two adults on 5th May; adult birds again on 2nd June and 11th August; first-winter on 6th September; second-winter on 10th October; second-winter and adult on 19th October, with an adult on 3rd November, and finally a second-winter on 12th November. Filey reported fewer birds with a

first-summer on 1st April; adults on 23rd June and 19th September; secondwinter on 12th and 26th October. Obviously some interchange between these two localities. Quite frequent in the Saltend area of the Humber during the later months, with an adult there on 20th August; first and secondwinter birds there on 22nd October; the first-winter bird being reported also on 23rd and 26th; single adult on 1st and 3rd December.

Single second-winter bird at Tophill Low Res. on 18th February, with a single adult in full summer plumage at Wheldrake Ings on 26th March.

In V.C. 62, a single adult at Scarborough and Scalby Mills on 5th, 9th and 14th July. Single first-winter bird at Scarborough on 9th and 26th October.

V.C. 63 had an adult at Blackmoorfoot on 23rd and 26th January, with a similar aged bird at Broomhead on 1st and then 8th to 12th February. Juvenile at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd August, with an adult at Thrybergh on 1st December. A first-winter bird was present there daily from 6th to 23rd, except for 12th. A first-winter bird was observed feeding on scraps outside a fish and chip shop at Scawthorpe on 12th December.

Three records from V.C. 64; a single first-winter bird at Fairburn Ings on 10th January, whilst on the same date a second-winter bird was reported from Knaresborough Ringing Station. An adult in winter plumage at Fairburn on 2nd March.

A single adult was present at Bolton-on-Swale from 2nd January to 19th March, and from 9th November to 21st December. It is assumed that the same bird was involved. A single adult also at Thornton Steward Res. on 31st January, 1st and 2nd February and 23rd February.

Addition to the 1984 Report: V.C. 63: A first-winter at Droppingwell Tip on 31st January (NWA).

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Small numbers were reported in V.C. 61 along the coast infrequently during the winter months, with six at Filey on 21st January, six at Flamborough on 15th and 12 at Hornsea on 6th. Spring passage very light, with four at Tophill Low Res. on 16th April being the highest count in the V.C.

During mid to late summer numbers built up particularly in the Hornsea area; by 8th July 28 were present at Hornsea Mere, whilst on 16th 30+ were reported from Catwick G.P. Numbers at the Mere remained fairly static for several weeks though increased along the coast, with 24 on 20th July; 32 were at the Mere on 22nd increasing to 36 on 25th, and thence to 55 on 28th, with 72 there on 9th August being the highest count of the year at that locality. Over the sea numbers slowly increased to 37 on 11th August, 41 on 19th, 109 on 1st September, 110 on 6th then decreasing to 82 on 9th, with 88 on 15th after which numbers remained at c40 into October. 60 were off Hornsea on 13th and 378 on 29th, which consisted of 148 flying south and a further 230 on the sea; a passage which was not noted at either Flamborough or Spurn though the latter reported 110 on 30th, and Hornsea 46 on the same day. 35 were at Hornsea on 10th November.

Numbers at Flamborough were low until 48 on 2nd September and 54 on 4th. 62 on 12th October, 103 on 13th with 819 on 19th, 115 on 26th and 201 on 31st. A similar picture at Filey, with 24 on 3rd September, 25 on 8th, and 247 on 19th October.

Eight at Spurn on 19th November.

Occasionally on the estuary at Saltend though only single birds except for two on 15th September; an adult there in full summer plumage on 8th June, with a similar bird at Wheldrake the following day, and another adult and first-summer bird there on 24th July.

In V.C. 62 single birds were recorded on four days during January from the Scarborough area; two adults at Scalby Mills on 15th July; one to two birds at Scarborough; Burniston and Scalby Mills from 2nd September to end of year.

The first record of the year from V.C. 63 was a single at Potteric Carr on 12th April. Single birds at Pugney's G.P. on 8th and 9th May, with singles at Thrybergh on 10th and 16th, when one was at Blackmoorfoot, and five at Blacktoft Sands; three being reported from Pugney's G.P. on 14th. Single birds also reported from Blacktoft Sands on 27th May and 4th and 5th June.

A single at Blacktoft Sands on 14th July, with one at Pugney's G.P. on 17th August, four

at Blackmoorfoot on 18th when two were at Worsborough, possibly being two of the previously mentioned birds. Single immatures at Pugney's G.P. and Thrybergh on 4th September; at Blackmoorfoot on 23rd. Three adults at Wath Ings on 16th November.

In V.C. 64 Fairburn had a poor year compared with 1984 though birds were reported during every month from 22nd April to 17th August, usually involving one or two birds, mainly immatures, but five from 19th May to 12th June.

Single at Chelker on 5th May; three at Gouthwaite on 4th August; four at Staveley on 14th; single at Gallaber on 19th. Two at Hay-a-Park on 4th September, with a single at Eccup on 19th and 28th September.

The only record from V.C. 65 was of a single bird at Nosterfield on 5th May.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

Single first-summer birds were at Flamborough on 5th August (PAL), at Sands End (near Whitby) on 6th (BA), with adults at Flamborough on 6th (PAL:NAP:JMP), 13th (PAL) and 16th (DGH). First-winter birds there on 3rd September (PAL:JCL), 19th (JCL) and 11th October (PAL). A first-winter bird at Spurn on 19th October, with a similar aged bird at Flamborough on 22nd (PAL); single adult at Spurn on 25th with two first-winter birds at Flamborough on 17th November (PAL).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Breeding was apparently normal at colonies in the York area, with 60 pairs at Strensall Common and 100+ at Wheldrake Ings. Two pairs attempted to breed at Elvington but were unsuccessful. A poor breeding year in V.C. 63 though the colony at Thorpe Marsh increased over 400 per cent to 90 pairs.

In V.C. 64, the colony at Knostrop S.F. was reduced to 24 pairs; Fairburn Ings increased to 324 pairs; 60 pairs at Grimwith Res.; 450 pairs on Grassington Moor; and six pairs at Mickleton Ings.

In V.C. 65 three pairs at Leighton Res. with varying counts at Masham G.P. from between c140 to c275 pairs.

20,000 were estimated to have been roosting in Hull Docks during the severe weather of January, whilst c6,000 were reported from Filey on 19th. 4,500 at Tophill Low Res. on 20th January.

c8,000 reported from Sunk Island on 17th August, with c7,000 at Cherry Cobb on 31st, and 8,500 there on 15th September. 5,000 at Wheldrake on 22nd November, with 5,500 at Tophill Low Res. on 23rd. The Hull Docks roost held 4,500 by mid October increasing to between 8,000 and 8,500 by December. 3,000+ at Castle Howard on 20th December.

Winter roosts in V.C. 63 were reported as 8,200 at Thrybergh on 8th January; 7,800 at Blackmoorfoot on 3rd February; 8,000 at Pugney's G.P. on 14th February; and 5,000 at Blacktoft Sands on 16th February, with 1,500 to 2,500 from many other locations. During the autumn 25,000 were at Blacktoft Sands (20th August), and late winter counts of 7,300 at Thrybergh on 29th December, with 3,500 at Pugney's G.P. on 15th and 3,000 at Broomhead on 27th.

In V.C. 64, 5,000 recorded at Fairburn Ings on 19th February, with 6,000 there on 19th and 20th December. Eccup had c10,000 on 27th September increasing to 18,000 on 10th November, then between 15,000 and 16,000 to the end of the year.

Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65, had a 40 per cent increase on 1984, with 13,000 on 6th February and 21,000 on 21st December. 8,000 at Leighton Res. on 14th and 24th March whilst Nosterfield held 10,000 on 13th March, having decreased from 16,500 on 29th January.

Leucistic birds were reported from several locations with two at Eccup on 24th February and three at Nosterfield during March.

Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

A single second-year bird at Filey on 25th July (PJD); a single first-winter bird flew west at Hull Docks before landing on a mud flat in mid river on 23rd November (SJL), and an adult at the gull roost at Eccup Res. on 24th November (RCH:SPS).

The record at Eccup Res. has been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee, but the other two records are still under consideration.

A single adult at Flamborough on 31st August (AMA) has not been submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

8,000 at Filey on 19th January, with 3,500 at Tophill Low Res. on 20th, both counts being associated with the severe weather, whilst up to 3,000 were in the Hull Docks area during the early months. The roost at Tophill Low Res. rapidly decreased to 300 on 25th.

Up to 5,000 roosting at Saltend at the end of the year, with 2,000+ feeding in St Andrew's Dock (Hull). 2,000 at Tophill Low Res. on 4th November increasing to 6,500 on 23rd, thence 5,000 on 15th December and 2,500 the following day. Large numbers at Flamborough during the later part of December with 510 on 21st, 770 on 27th, 2,000 on 28th, 3,200 on 29th and 1,425 on 31st.

1,400 were reported from Aughton on 2nd April, a very high count there.

Castle Howard had 1,000+ on 22nd November, with 3,000+ by the end of the year. 1,500 at Spurn on 10th February.

500 at Blacktoft Sands on 16th February, with a similar number at Pugney's G.P. on 14th, whilst Blackmoorfoot had 1,480 on 3rd. 2,000 were recorded at Blacktoft Sands on 24th August, with 332 at Thrybergh on 29th December, no other counts above 200 during the later months in V.C. 63.

Good numbers at Eccup in V.C. 64 where 5,000 were reported on 1st January, 5,500 on 29th and 3,250 on 20th March. Numbers had increased during autumn to 2,000 by 20th September, 4,500+ on 5th October, 5,000 on 1st and 6,000 on 18th November, with 6,500 on several days in December. Elsewhere 550 at Wothersome, and 450 at East Rington on 21st January, with 400 at Gouthwaite on 2nd February.

1,000 at Bolton-on-Swale on 27th March and 400 at Nosterfield on 20th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

20+ nests found on Barden Moor in June (FAW), where now considered to be a regular breeder.

Numbers low during the winter months, with 50+ at Thorpe Marsh in January; 100 at Wilsic on 19th January. Slightly higher towards the end of the year, with 451 at Fairburn on 24th November, and 550 at Masham on 2nd November.

Spring numbers at Gouthwaite increased from 110 on 3rd March to 170 on 6th and 240 on 9th, with 250 at Eccup during early April; 252 at Mickletown Ings on 23rd April.

Autumn counts were large with 525 at Nosterfield on 5th August, 721 at Eccup on 27th September; 650 at Masham on 23rd August; 1,850 on 30th thence 2,000 on 21st September, decreasing to 1,500 on 10th October. 545 at Bolton-on-Swale on 22nd August. 500 at Wintersett on 12th October.

Only small numbers along the coast with 30 at Spurn on 22nd July, 57 on 29th and 43 on 30th, and 42 there on 12th August. 17 at Flamborough on 12th September being the highest count there. Inland in V.C. 61 also small numbers, with 160 at Bubwith on 9th September, and 140 at Brighton on 27th being the only reports in excess of 100.

Dark backed birds showing the characteristics of the races *L.f. fuscus* and *L.f. intermedius* were reported from many localities, with up to 12 at Eccup during September/October; 16 at Hull Dock; 13 at Flamborough. Spurn had unprecedented numbers during late July and early August with 10 on 22nd July; 42 on 30th; 20 on 1st August; 11 on 2nd and 16 on 3rd.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Inland roosts were again high with 2,400+ at Eccup on 1st January rising to 3,800+ by 29th, peaking at 5,200 on 2nd February, lower numbers there in later months rising to 3,100 on 29th December. 1,500 at Shirecliffe Tip (near Sheffield) on 14th January; 2,000 at Wintersett Res. on 28th December.

Along the coast and the estuary good numbers, though Spurn reported that counts were

generally much down on recent years. 3,500 were at Fraisthorpe on 23rd February with 1,500 at Hornsea Mere on 9th, and 1,000 at Weel Tip on 4th. During the later months, 4,000 at Filey on 25th November, with 3,800 at Hull Docks on 28th December, and 2,000 at Flamborough on 22nd October. Birds considered to belong to the race *L.a. michahellis* were reported from Flamborough on 11th August; Blackmoorfoot Res. on 9th, 10th and 19th October; Broadstones Res. on 10th, 19th (two birds) and 25th (two birds) of October with a single on 16th November.

Birds showing the characteristics of the race *L.a. heuglini* were reported from Flamborough on 1st January and 11th August, with a single at Barmston on 11th August.

A first-year hybrid – considered to be Herring x Glaucous Gull was reported at Winterset Res. on 22nd November.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

Not a very good year in V.C. 61 with a single adult at Broomfleet on 19th January; single adult at Filey on 3rd February, with a single first-winter bird at Flamborough on the same day. Single adults at Filey on 6th March and Flamborough on 10th.

Two first-year birds flew north off Hornsea on 12th October, with a single adult north there on 2nd November. Single firstwinter at Hull Fish Dock on 28th December, with two similar aged birds plus a third-winter bird there the following day; single first-winter bird on 30th, and third-winter there on 31st.

V.C. 62: a single bird to the north at Long Nab, Burniston on 17th March.

V.C. 63: First-winter birds reported from Ardsley Res. on 2nd February; Blacktoft Sands on 3rd and 13th; Thrybergh Res. on 4th; Anglers on 8th February, and Pugney's G.P. on 8th March.

Second-winter birds at Shirecliffe Tip on 5th January; Broomhead Res. on 2nd, 5th, 8th and 13th February; Anglers on 23rd March and 16th April, and Low Moor, Wyke on 25th March.

Third-winter birds at Winterset Res. on 10th and 19th January; Thrybergh Res. on 15th, 16th and 18th January.

Adults at Broomhead Res. on 8th January; Winterset on 9th January; Anglers on 11th, 12th and 15th February, and at Thrybergh Res. on 2nd December.

V.C. 64 reported a very good year, with an unaged bird at Pine Wood near Harrogate on 23rd January; second-winter at Fairburn on 26th. Adult at Esholt S.F. on 9th and 23rd February; a second-winter and first-winter at Wormald Green on 10th and 13th; different first-winters at Fairburn on 12th and 16th February. In March, a first-winter at Fairburn on 1st; an adult at Knotford Nook on 25th and 26th. Eccup Res. had four different birds (2 adults and 2 first-winter) between 1st January and 24th March.

V.C. 65: a first-winter at Bolton-on-Swale on 20th February, with a second-summer bird at Nosterfield on 14th April.

Addition to the 1984 Report: V.C. 63: First-winter bird at Droppingwell Tip between 30th January and 10th February.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

V.C. 61: During January, a changing population at Bridlington saw six birds (2 adults, 1 fifth-winter, 1 third-winter and 2 first-winters); Flamborough had birds on nine days this month with two on 1st, two on 17th, three on 18th and 19th, two on 20th. Not reported from Bridlington during the rest of the winter though at Flamborough three birds were present on 10th February; a single there on 17th, with further single birds on 30th March; 5th, 8th and 17th April; 5th May with two on 19th, and a single on 22nd. Filey had a poor year with a first-winter bird regularly until 12th April, and a second bird present on 8th March. Single first-winter plus adult at Hornsea Mere on 9th February. Single at Catwick on 4th February, with another bird on 8th; first-winter at Hull Docks on 2nd to 4th February; adult at Tophill Low Res. on 3rd March, with single first-winter at Wheldrake and Ellerton Ings on 10th and 11th respectively.

An adult was at Filey on 15th June; after a single on 25th August, Flamborough had birds on 22nd and 25th September, 5th, 17th, 20th, 26th and 29th October; on six days in

November, with two birds on 19th October; three on 19th November, singles on two days in December with two on 28th. Two at Filey on 16th November; two at Hornsea on 13th November, with singles on 3rd and 10th. Two at Bridlington on 23rd November, with singles on 19th and 28th, whilst at Hull Dock a single from 27th December to year's end with two on 29th.

Single second-winter at Spurn on 1st and 2nd February; adult on 3rd March, second-winter bird on 3rd, 9th and 21st March, with an adult on 28th March and 13th May.

Adult on 21st August, 8th September, 7th, 19th and 24th October, with two (1 first-year and 1 second-year) on 3rd November with a second-year on 17th, all at Spurn.

V.C. 62: single first-winter bird at Jackson's Bay on two days in late January, then a second-year bird at Scarborough on 19th May.

One to two birds on 12 occasions in the Scarborough area between 1st September and the end of the year; at least five individuals being involved.

Single first-winter bird at Robin Hood's Bay on 14th December.

V.C. 63: single first-winter birds were reported from Blacktoft Sands, Southfield Res., Broomhead Res., Greasebrough Tip, Thrybergh, Winterset, Anglers, Pugney's G.P. and Worsbrough Res. between 2nd January and 20th April. In autumn singles at Winterset on 15th; Pugney's G.P. on 19th and 21st and Ardsley Res. on 23rd November.

Single second-winter bird at Winterset from 19th January to 2nd February. Third-winter birds at Ardsley Res. on 19th January and 31st October.

Adults were reported from Pugney's G.P. on 15th January, and 11th February; from Winterset Res. on 21st January; at Ardsley Res. on 31st October, and flying to the west over Bentley Grange on 4th December.

V.C. 64 reported an excellent year with a first-winter bird at Harrogate Stray on 6th January; third-winter at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 12th; single first-winter birds at Eccup on 13th and 29th January; Fairburn Ings on 26th, 29th and 30th; Esholt S.F. on 27th; Wormald Green on 28th.

February produced an adult at Mickletown Ings on 2nd; first-winter birds at Eccup on 2nd, 3rd and 10th, with an adult there on 3rd and 16th; first-winter at Fairburn Ings on 10th to 12th and 16th, with two on 8th; single at Farnham G.P. on 2nd reported from Wormald Green the following day. Only one record during March, a single first-winter bird at Esholt S.F. on 24th. First-winter at Skipton on 7th April, with a second-winter bird at Fairburn on 16th.

A second-winter bird at Wormald Green on 13th November was almost certainly the bird reported at Eccup that same evening. First-winter at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 17th considered to be the bird reported from Eccup on the same day and following day. Single at Fairburn Ings on 25th November.

In December, first-winter at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 7th; adult at Fairburn on same day; first-winter at Ripon Race Course on 14th; Eccup on 15th, 29th and 31st; Wormald Green on 22nd and 26th.

Bolton-on-Swale in V.C. 65 reported a first-winter bird on 19th and 20th January; second-winter on 14th February, and an adult from 19th January to 14th February, and again on 23rd February.

Great Blackbacked Gull *Larus marinus*

A slight decrease on 1984, with 1,200 at Eccup on 29th January peaking at 1,280 on 2nd February, and 1,200 at Hull Fish Dock during late December. The numbers at Eccup had declined to only 20 by 24th February, whilst there were only 500 at Hull Fish Dock on 30th December. Other counts being 676 at Fairburn Ings on 8th February, with 332 there on 17th November; 350+ at Eccup on 18th November, with 385 on 28th December, and 616 the following day. 450 were reported from Bolton-on-Swale on both 17th January and 15th November. 450 at Winterset on 1st January, with 800 there on 28th December. 500 at Stairfoot Tip on 30th December; 400 at Brighton Tip on 26th December.

Along the coast, 790 at Flamborough on 21st September with 700 on 23rd. 750 at Hornsea Mere on 9th February, up to 300 at Filey during October whilst the maxima at Spurn were 280 on 24th August and 350 on 21st September. 300 north at Kettleness on 7th August.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*

Single adults were recorded at Flamborough on 6th November (AMA:PAL), and on 17th November (PAL).

Neither record has been submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Although no census done at Flamborough it would appear that the numbers remain static. No reports received from any of the colonies further north. 240 off Spurn on 1st January, with 465 there on 27th April, being the highest counts there during the early months. Flamborough had 40,700 on 14th April, whilst up to 7,200 per hour were counted off Filey during May. 41,000 at Flamborough on 30th June, with 45,000 on 31st October on which day 1,500 were reported from Spurn. 7,000 at Spurn on 10th November, with 4,000 the following day; 49,700 at Flamborough on 12th, and 'masses' at Spurn on 24th. Quite frequent along the Humber with 42 at Sunk Island on 19th May; 25 to the west at Blacktoft Sands on 27th; 14 at Saltend on 21st. Four at Blacktoft Sands on 27th October and a single bird at Broomfleet on 31st January.

The only inland record of note in V.C. 61 was 17 at Wheldrake on 24th March.

In V.C. 63 there were nine records of single birds to 14th March when a large movement took place, with 165 reported from Pugney's G.P. between 1710 and 1830 hours whilst at Blackmoorfoot between 1650 and 1800 hours a total of 226 birds passed through including one flock numbering 101. Eight were also reported from Anglers on this date. One to two birds at 10 locations till 12th June, with 12 at Thrybergh on 12th June.

During the autumn one to four birds reported from five sites.

Not so plentiful in V.C. 64; a single bird at Fairburn on 25th January after which there were 32 records of mainly single birds from 1st March to 16th June; seven locations recording birds with Fairburn having most, though 21 there on 1st March, with 11 still present the following day; up to four from 1st to 19th May, with five at Farnham on 4th March and eight at Eccup on 5th May.

Fewer records during the later months with singles at Knotford Nook on 4th, 15th and 21st August; High Batts on 8th September; Fairburn Ings on 22nd September; 11th and 14th November, whilst Eccup had two on 19th September and single on 11th November.

Single at Bolton-on-Swale on 11th November.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

A single adult was at Flamborough on 16th June (AMA:DGH).

Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Single at Filey on 24th (GBR:JP) followed by one at Broomhill Flash on 30th (JMT), and a single at Spurn on 31st; these being the only March records.

Small numbers occasionally during the early part of April, with birds daily along the coast from mid month. Increase during May with 82 at Hornsea on 3rd, 354 at Flamborough on 5th, whilst the monthly maximum at Filey was reported as 127 though no date given. July monthly maxima of 350 at Spurn and 551 at Filey, whilst 505 were reported from Flamborough on 23rd, and 395 at Hornsea on the same day. 1,170 at Spurn on 3rd August, with 982 at Flamborough on 6th; 695 there on 17th; 876 at Hornsea on 18th. 1,234 at Spurn on 20th; all to the south; with 1,750 at Flamborough on 26th.

808 at Flamborough on 1st September, with 1,952 south off Hornsea on the same date, and 1,866 at Spurn. 699 at Flamborough on 5th decreasing to 105 by 22nd. Spurn had 280 on 22nd thereafter small counts. Late birds were two at Hornsea on 16th October; three at Spurn on 22nd with singles at Flamborough on 27th and Saltend on 29th.

Frequently reported along the Humber, with 93 at Sunk Island on 31st August; 36 on 7th September and 52 on 9th, whilst at Saltend 28 were feeding and later roosted in the vicinity on 10th, with 30 on 11th and 54 on 12th rapidly decreasing to three on 14th.

Notwithstanding the very early bird at Broomhill, four were at Thrybergh on 4th May, with eight to the north there on 14th, and a single on 24th. Single at Thorpe Marsh on 16th May, with one at Wath on 18th and Treeton Dyke on 11th June.

Autumn records saw singles at Blacktoft Sands on 29th June, 2nd and 26th July and 7th September, with two on 24th July. Further single records at Bentley Tilts on 7th July; Winterset Res. on 27th August, and Blackmoorfoot on 23rd September.

In V.C. 64, two were at Fairburn Ings on 30th April, and on 4th May, with two (same?) at Eccup on 5th; single at Mickletown on 13th May; at Fairburn on 22nd June and 15th September; at Eccup on 19th.

The only records from V.C. 65 were from Nosterfield where a single bird was reported on 5th May with two on 27th.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

A single adult was reported from Hornsea Mere on 28th July (GRB), with an adult at Flamborough on 31st. Two adults at Flamborough on 26th August with a single at Hornsea Mere on the same day (GRB). Single to the south off Hornsea on 18th (GRB).

Two adults plus a juvenile off Flamborough on 3rd September; adult there on 10th, whilst off Hornsea an immature on 12th (GRB). Immature at Flamborough on 13th, and finally an adult there on 27th September.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Breeding was reported from Fairburn with three pairs though only one reared young (3); Pugney's G.P. with two young reared, and Thorpe Marsh where also two young were reared.

The first reported were four at Wheldrake Ings on 13th April, followed by a single bird at Flamborough the next day; single at Pugney's G.P. on 18th, Spurn on 19th, and Fairburn on 20th.

Numbers reported from along the coast were low during the Spring, with up to 50 off Hornsea during May and lesser counts elsewhere. It was not until August that large numbers were reported, with 447 off Hornsea on 12th; 334 there on 13th, and 551 to the north on 17th, when 161 were recorded at Flamborough. 616 at Hornsea on 18th, with 290 at Flamborough, 577 at Hornsea on 19th, and 471 on 20th. Flamborough reported 376 on 22nd, whilst at Hornsea 390 were recorded on 24th and 385 on 26th, thereafter numbers at both locations decreased, with 114 at Hornsea on 14th and 125 on 17th as the highest counts during September. Saltend, however, reported large numbers during this period with 58 on 11th, 119 on 12th, 110 on 14th, and 146 to the west on 15th, thereafter only small numbers.

Late birds being a single at Fairburn Ings on 19th October; at Spurn on 20th, Hornsea on 24th, and the last there on 2nd November.

V.C. 63 reported birds from 18 locations during the Spring usually of one to six birds, though 17 at Pugney's G.P. on 23rd May on which date 11 were at Winterset, with nine at Broomhill Flash on 5th June. Lesser numbers reported during the Autumn, with 17 to the west at Blacktoft Sands on 4th August and 17 to the west there on 11th September. 13 at Elsecar Res. on 19th August. Singles at Blackmoorfoot on 1st and 4th October.

V.C. 64 had birds at a total of 18 sites during the year, with low numbers usually involved, but 27 at Fairburn Ings on 1st May and 13 at Eccup on 5th. Three were there on 7th October, with singles in the Ribble Valley on 9th and 16th.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

The first of the year reported from Elland G.P. on 12th April, followed by two at Fairburn Ings on 19th, and singles at Cherry Cobb and Pugney's G.P., plus seven at Thorpe Marsh on 21st.

Inland records were received from over 30 locations, with 73 at Fairburn on 30th April and 33 there on 5th May. In V.C. 63, 59 at Thrybergh, 25 at Blacktoft Sands, and 16 at Wath on 3rd May. 36 at Pugney's G.P. and 17 at Thrybergh on 4th May with 10 at Blacktoft Sands on 5th, and on 15th, 13 at Thrybergh and 12 at Worsbrough. 22 at Wheldrake Ings on 5th May being the only large party inland in V.C. 61.

Numbers along the coast were far lower than the previous species with 207 at Flamborough on 6th August, and 138 there on 17th as the maxima. Inland, numbers were low during the Autumn, with only one to three birds being involved. Late birds were reported

from Winterset where a single was present between 17th and 20th October; Worsbrough on 24th; Flamborough on 6th November, with the last over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 10th. A single 'commic' tern at Worsbrough on 16th November is considered to have been more likely this species than the last.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

The first were singles at Spurn and Pugney's G.P. on 19th April, then at Easington on 24th, 25 being reported there by 4th May. The colony here consisted of 11 pairs which laid 31 eggs though all were destroyed on the night of 9th/10th June presumably by foxes. The birds laid again, this time outside the wire fence, and the eggs were again predated though finally eight birds did reach the flying stage. Up to four birds were frequently reported at Hornsea though 15 were there on 4th August. Small numbers reported from Flamborough, with four on 1st August as the maximum. Many records from Spurn, no doubt from the breeding colony at Easington; the highest count being 14 on 28th July.

Inland, a single bird reported from the Lower Derwent at Bubwith and North Duffield on 16th May. V.C. 63 had the early bird at Pugney's G.P. with another there on 8th May; singles at Thrybergh and Sprotbrough Flash on 15th, whilst three were at Winterset Res. on the same date. Two at Thrybergh on 23rd May with two again on 3rd June, and three north there on 4th, whilst two were at Pugney's G.P. on 16th June.

V.C. 64 had single at Fairburn Ings on 30th April, and 5th May, with three on 15th, two on 7th June and singles on 21st and 23rd August. Three at Hay-a-Park on 26th May, with a single at Eccup on 2nd June.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Two at Fairburn Ings on 19th April were followed by singles at Blacktoft Sands on 20th; Farnham on 23rd and Pugney's G.P. on 25th.

One to three birds reported from 18 locations during the period early May to mid June, with five at Fairburn on 15th May.

Eight reported flying north at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 16th June, then between early June and late September one to three birds at 21 locations, with seven at Thrybergh on 19th September when five were at Fairburn. 15 though possibly 17 reported from Blackmoorfoot on 30th September.

Along the coast numbers were very low with the exception of 48 which flew south off shore at Spurn on 30th August; many of these were seen to arrive from the east.

A single bird was observed following a plough with gulls near Tophill Low Res. on 9th September.

October birds were reported from Redmires where three flew west on 6th; single at Pugney's G.P. on 8th, and two at Hornsea Mere until 14th.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

A winter plumaged bird at Fairburn Ings on 18th August (GRW:HJW).

Not accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Considered that numbers at Bempton were higher than the previous year (RSPB). Frequently not distinguished from the following species and most records refer to 'auk sp.'. 22,250 were recorded at Flamborough on 20th January, with 13,380 there on 14th July, whilst at Filey counts were reported per hour with 12,000 on 18th May, though how long this movement lasted is not stated. Numbers further south at Hornsea and Spurn were lower, with 1,274 on 11th October; 1,400 on 29th, and in November 1,913 on 1st and 1,630 on 2nd, all at Spurn.

Three birds were reported on the River Trent at Blacktoft Sands on 4th November.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Breeding numbers at Bempton considered to be slightly higher than the previous year (RSPB).

This species forms only a small percentage of the 'auk sp.' reported under the previous species.

Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*

Single birds reported from Flamborough on 22nd October (PAL) and 31st October (JCL:PAL).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

36 were reported from Flamborough on 1st January, with 26 there on 3rd, and 20 on 5th, when five were at Hornsea and eight at the latter on 6th. 14 at Filey on 12th with eight on 19th. Flamborough, Filey and Hornsea had small numbers during the following three months, with three at Flamborough on 5th May as the last. Two were reported off Hornsea on 5th September, with a single at Flamborough on 8th.

29 at Flamborough on 19th October, with 39 on 27th on which date 19 were reported from Hornsea. 10 were at Filey on 20th, 26 at Hornsea and 74 at Flamborough on 29th. During this period up to 13 were reported at Spurn with a total of 64 being involved.

On 1st November, 82 at Spurn, 79 at Hornsea and 92 at Flamborough, with on 2nd, 35 at Spurn and 82 at Hornsea, 232 at Flamborough and 42 at Filey. On the 3rd, five at Spurn, 13 at Hornsea and 57 at Flamborough. Five at Spurn on 10th, 32 at Scarborough on 11th, 61 at Flamborough, and a single at Spurn on 12th, whilst the following day saw 20 at Filey; 76 at Flamborough and 16 at Hornsea. Nine at Spurn on 18th. 39 at Flamborough on 19th, with 33 there on 23rd, and five at Spurn on 30th.

Inland a single was at Broomhead Res. on 5th February, being found dead on 9th. Single along the River Trent at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd November, with a single bird found alive at Helperby (near Boroughbridge) being released at the coast.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Breeding at Bempton would appear to be unchanged (RSPB).

Maximum hourly rate of passing birds at Filey being reported as 204 on 6th March and 364 on 28th July.

Highest counts off Flamborough being 1,483 on 14th April; 5,200 on 18th July; 5,360 on 20th; 7,430 on 21st; 8,710 on 22nd; 8,760 on 1st August with 9,965 on 5th.

47 south off Scarborough in one hour on 26th July.

13 at Spurn on 12 October being the highest count there.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

The only reports were from the cliffs of Flamborough, which had a maximum of 600 on 4th May, and those of Filey where up to 30 occurred.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Flocks of 207 at Skellbrooke on 20th January, and 200 at Broomhill on 1st February, and an easterly movement over Denby Dale of flocks of 350 and 100 during the morning of 4th February, with flocks elsewhere in the early months of less than 50 apart from 54 at Esholt on 13th April.

Breeding widespread throughout the county on cliffs and man-made structures.

A flock of 73 at North Duffield Carrs on 25th September, and one of 400 at Wath upon Dearne on 15th October. The highest counts were in November, with 75 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 2nd; 124 at Thrybergh on 5th; 103 in the Hull Docks/Saltend area on 10th; 670 in the Wath/Broomhill area on 16th, and 500 at Fairburn Ings, and 120 at Swillington Ings on 18th. 92 north over Saltend on 28th December.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Cold weather movements to the west in the Huddersfield area during January peaked at 1,922 over Blackmoorfoot on 12th; 'hundreds' south over Millhouses, Sheffield on 20th; other movements in early February over Rivelin, Sheffield and Eccup Reservoir, and 1,500 east over Netherton, Huddersfield on 10th.

4,000 at Wentworth on 8th; 1,200 at Farnley Tyas on 11th; 6,000 at Tophill Low Reservoir on 17th January, and 10,000 at Hornsea Mere on 2nd February, otherwise apart from 3,100 at Tophill Low on 20th February, all other flocks before the autumn were of 1,000 or less.

Autumn flocks of 1,000 to 1,500, mostly during November, at Elland, Broadhead Clough, Bewholme, Rudston, Sigglesworth, Castle Howard, Aughton, Sprotbrough, Wilsic near Doncaster, Fairburn Ings, and High Batts near Ripon. Peaks during December of 4,300 at Fairburn Ings on 12th; 3,700 at Tophill Low on 15th, and 1,500 at Murton near York on 20th. 1,000 north over Swillington Park on 31st December.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Flocks during January of 147 at Copgrove on 2nd; 64 at Barmston on 3rd; 100 at Broomfleet on 4th, and 186 at Fairburn Ings on 9th.

A slight spread in the breeding range south of Huddersfield, and west of Halifax, and an increase in numbers around Settle, and in the Barnsley area.

Autumn flocks of 86 at Poppleton on 30th October; 110 at Eccup on 12th; 300 at Royd Farm near Barnsley on 25th, and 120 at Fairburn Ings on 30th November; 90 at Frickley on 15th, and 105 at Tadcaster on 26th December. No precise counts from Selby, but over 100 would be at the BOCM Mill on many dates.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Three singles during April; at Denaby Ings on 25th; at Howell Wood and Skipwith Common on 28th, then during May at three more sites before widespread arrivals between 5th and 20th. 25th May was a peak day of passage, with 32 at Flamborough; 295 south at Spurn, and 25 west at Blacktoft Sands. 41 west along the Humber on 26th May.

Comments from most societies on breeding status indicate that numbers are lower than usual. This is particularly the case in the Harrogate and Doncaster areas, whilst numbers are stated as low in the Huddersfield, Barnsley and Sheffield areas. Always scarce in the west and north of the county there were nonetheless pairs at Scorton and Gatherley near Catterick, and in the north-east a pair at Fylingdales during May.

The majority leave the county during August, but there were at least ten September records including 21 at Wilsic, Doncaster on 11th, and the last singles were at Thrybergh Reservoir on 5th, Blacktoft Sands on 17th, and Flamborough on 19th October.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

An exceptionally early bird at Hackenthorpe, Sheffield on 6th and 8th March (GPM).

Early arrivals of singles at Addingham Moorside and Wath Ings on 19th April; at Carlton Marsh and Rounday Park on 20th, and at Thorpe Marsh, Spurn and Poppleton on 21st, and although appearing at about 15 more places by the end of April, significant numbers did not arrive until the period 6th to 10th May.

Six to eight at five lowland localities on dates during May and June. 13 at Bempton on 11th August.

Few reports after late August, the last two being at Fairburn Ings on 21st September and Eldwick on 27th September.

Rufous-phase birds at Carlton Marsh on 2nd May; at Winterset Res. from 15th May to 30th June, and on Thorne Moors on 26th June.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

V.C. 61: Breeding of five pairs proved, all in the York area. Sightings at more than 50 other localities, plus a further 16 reported by the South Holderness Countryside Society which may duplicate some of the above. With so many reports there is cause for optimism about the species status east of the River Ouse.

V.C. 62: A slight increase in records near Scarborough and in the North Yorkshire Moors, and a breeding pair located north of York.

V.C. 63: Breeding proved for two pairs near Doncaster and three near Barnsley. Records of singles at about 20 other sites, some being noted on more than one date.

V.C. 64: A Wharfedale pair reared four young. Generally becoming very scarce with records from only ten other localities.

V.C. 65: Only one record received.

Five reports of road casualties received from various parts of the county.

Dark-breasted individuals at Stone Creek on 22nd March, and at Frizinghall on 25th August.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

V.C. 61: Bred at eight sites, and present during the breeding season at at least six more sites near York. Much scarcer further east, with a few singles noted, and two birds at only two places.

V.C. 62: Present in the breeding season at ten localities in the north of the York area, plus two pairs near Pickering.

V.C. 63: Status shows little change remaining widespread in the vice-county, with approximately 40 breeding pairs located, and birds present at other sites.

V.C. 64: Widely distributed breeding in many localities from the Plain of York to the Dales. Did not breed near Fairburn.

V.C. 65: Most frequent in the lower stretches of the Dales and the Vale of Mowbray, with birds at more than ten localities.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Although information from many areas was minimal more breeding reports were received than usual including pairs in the York (seven), Huddersfield (seven), Barnsley (six), Sheffield (eight), and Doncaster (twenty) areas. Seven pairs in the Doncaster area were at Sprotbrough.

Three young at approximately three weeks old were in a tree hole at Helmsley as early as 19th January (JP). One robbing the nest of Magpie, *Pica pica* in Leeds on 6th April. Two grey phase birds at Spurn on 12th October.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

V.C. 61: An unexceptional year, with the majority of records concerning singles during the winter months, and a maximum of three at any roost. A pair reared two young at Skipwith Common.

V.C. 62: Two pairs bred in the north of the York area and singles at two other places in March and April. One at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 24th October.

V.C. 63: Single pairs bred near Huddersfield and Halifax, and breeding was suspected at five sites in the Doncaster area. Wath Ings and Thorpe Marsh had birds regularly in both winters, with maxima of four at Wath in January, and five at Thorpe in late February. Two at Denaby Ings early in the year, and two at Potteric Carr at the year-end.

V.C. 64: Singles at Thorner on 24th March; at Sherburn on 27th November; at Roecliffe Grange on 22nd and 25th December, and two near Wetherby on 27th December.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

V.C. 61: Widespread in the winter and autumn months, along the coast including Spurn; along the Humber estuary; the wetland areas along the River Hull, and the Lower Derwent. Maxima included four each at Spurn on 27th October; at Figham, Beverley on 28th November, and at Wheldrake Ings on 27th December, and seven at Cherry Cobb on 30th November and 8th December.

V.C. 62: A scattering of records in the North Yorkshire Moors, with five singles in the early months, and two in November. A few singles north of York in March, May and December.

V.C. 63: Present as usual in the lowland areas away from the Pennines in the winter months. Numbers were only moderate apart from six at Blacktoft Sands on 9th December, where a pair bred rearing two young.

V.C. 64: At least three pairs each, in the Settle area and in Langstrothdale, probably bred. More located in the lowland areas in the winter months than in 1984, with records up to April from over 20 sites.

V.C. 65: Widespread records but insufficient data to establish true status.

Present in various parts of the county in May and June at possible breeding sites, mostly in the uplands, where absence at later dates may have indicated a shortage of prey species.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Two at Fairburn Ings on 21st May.

Three pairs bred at Skipwith Common, and one pair bred near Market Weighton. At least six pairs, and singing males in the forests west of Scarborough, with three at Dalby, two at Wykeham, and one at Cropton. One or possibly two males held territory at Strensall.

One at Bretton Park on 31st May, and up to four (three males) present at a site in the Barnsley and Sheffield areas between 19th June and 14th August.

Present on Thorne Moors and Hatfield Moors, with population about normal at the latter site.

Needle-tailed Swift *Hirundapus caudactis*

One feeding with Swifts, *Apus apus* over Fairburn Ings for two hours on the morning of 27th May (SPD, JG, GRW *et al.*).

The first record for the county and the sixth for Britain.

Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Swift *Apus apus*

One at Wheldrake Ings on 14th April was exceptionally early (TB). Singles at Fairburn Ings on 21st; Carlton Marsh on 24th; Denaby Ings on 25th, and at three more places on 30th April. A wider influx from 3rd to 10th May, with numbers increasing up to 20th when the first flocks of over 100 appeared. 1,000 at Worsbrough S.F. on 22nd May; 5,000 at Hornsea Mere on 24th May, and again on 23rd June; 1,200 at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 5th, and 3,000 at Fairburn Ings, and 1,500 at Tophill Low Reservoir on 6th June.

Less numerous than usual around breeding colonies in Doncaster and Huddersfield, but more frequent at a colony at Hackenthorpe, Sheffield.

Passage numbers at Spurn were high during July, with 3,800 on 1st; 5,000 on 6th; 15,000 on 11th, and 7,000 on 12th. 2,000 on passage at Flamborough on 6th July and 24th August.

Southerly movement elsewhere of 1,300 over Horbury Wyke on 2nd August; 300 at Seamer G.P. and 800 over Wath Ings on 12th August, and 500 over Roelcliffe on 9th.

1,500 west at Wath Ings on 25th August.

A scattering of records through September to early October, the last being three at Spurn on 6th; one at York and two at Flamborough on 8th; singles at Hornsea on 9th, Newton-le-Willows on 11th, and Atwick on 13th.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

An exceptional year for this species both in the county and in Britain.

On 3rd April one arrived from the south and circled Carlton Marsh before departing to the north-west (DMS, EMB). One south over the Warren at Spurn on 6th July (RPL, BRS). One over South Landing at Flamborough on 28th July (PAL). One came in from the east at Edderthorpe Flash near Barnsley on 22nd August, and departed to the south-west (PB). On 5th October, one over Robin Hood's Bay (R and MG).

The record at Carlton Marsh was not accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee, and the one at Flamborough has not been submitted to that committee, but the other three records were all accepted.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

V.C. 61: Seven pairs bred in the Derwent area east of York, and although not proved to breed elsewhere, was of frequent occurrence along the River Hull, and noted at a variety of locations along the Humber.

V.C. 62: Bred at two sites north of York and at Duncombe Park, and present at five more sites in the breeding season.

V.C. 63: Bred at nine sites of which seven were in the Barnsley and Doncaster areas. Present on the River Calder near Elland.

V.C. 64: Breeding proved for 27 pairs, and at least six others probably bred. On 9th September one visited a garden bird bath at Meanwood, Leeds.

V.C. 65: Young seen at four breeding sites, and present in the breeding season at five other localities.

A very healthy situation in most parts of the county, with an increase in breeding pairs proved from 27 in 1984 to 50, but it is probable that this is in part due to better coverage by observers.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One flying over High Batts near Ripon on 30th April (SW). One at Ponden near Sutton-in-Craven on 14th May (Mrs Calvert). One along Holderness Drain near King George Dock, Hull on 23rd September (SLJ, BR).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

A good passage during May commencing with one at Spurn on 12th, then singles at Flamborough on 13th, and at Bempton and Filey on 14th and 15th, when two were at Flamborough. At Spurn four on 14th; six on 15th; five on 16th; two on 17th, and singles on 18th, 21st, 25th, 26th and 29th May. One at Scawthorpe, Doncaster on 19th May (MJP).

Singles at Spurn on 4th and 22nd September.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Very few records from the North Yorkshire Moors, or east of the River Derwent from the Wolds or Holderness.

Ten pairs bred in V.C. 63; three pairs in the Dales, and two pairs in the Howardian Hills, making a total of 15 pairs against only six pairs proved in 1984. More than 20 other localities had pairs present regularly, and some of these probably bred.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Over 90 breeding pairs located of which 50 were in V.C. 63, and 29 in V.C. 64. In addition recorded at 32 sites in the York area, breeding successfully in many of these.

15 records at Spurn six of which were during October. Singles at Flamborough on 30th October and 27th December were of the northern race *D.m. major*.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

The Harrogate, Leeds, Huddersfield, Doncaster and Sheffield societies all reported marked increases in the numbers of sightings, and there was also a healthy situation in the York area where two pairs bred, and there were indications of likely breeding at seven other localities. Breeding was successful at six sites in V.C. 63, and probable in three other sites, and the figures for V.C. 64 were respectively seven and two.

Still extremely scarce in the east of V.C. 61, one at Hórnsea Mere on 13th January was the only record. Not located in the North Yorkshire Moors, and one at Duncombe Park on 8th March and 24th April was the only record north of the York area. No records from V.C. 65.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

One on the Humber shore and at the Warren at Spurn seen on most days from 1st to 16th November.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Cold weather movements to the south during January particularly at Blacktoft Sands, with 420 on 7th; 550 on 13th, and 315 on 25th, and at Thrybergh Res. 274 on 7th, also 150 north at Bentley, Doncaster on 14th.

Flocks in the early months were not very large, and included 227 at Fairburn Ings on 7th January; 150 at Denaby Ings on 18th; 120 at Spurn on 16th, and 300 at North Anston in mid January. 200 at Winterset on 9th February.

During March 250 in the Ribble Valley on 15th and 19th; 150 between Ripley and Killinghall on 16th, and over 100 at Burniston, Scarborough on 17th.

Counts of southerly passage during the autumn at Spurn gave the lowest figures for the 1980s, with only 1,708 between 25th September and 16th November, including a peak of 388 on 8th October. More in evidence at Flamborough, with October peaks of 380 on 19th; 700 on 20th; 460 on 26th, and 315 on 29th, then 300 on 9th November, and 670 on 28th December.

No more than 100 at any inland locality apart from 130 at Barlow Grange, York on 28th October, and 300 at Bolton Ings on 28th November. Other large numbers noted were of birds on the move, with a total of 374 south at Blacktoft Sands on 7th and 8th October, and 180 west on 20th, when 191 had flown west up the Humber at Sunk Island. 147 north-west at Pugney's G.P. on 20th October, and 133 east at Kexby on 28th December.

An incredible concentration at Barmston on 28th December, when 977 moved north along the beach, and uncountable numbers were on the cliff top fields, easily 2,500, but perhaps twice that number (SML).

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Very scarce this year. Apart from three at Flamborough on 26th October all the other records were of singles. These were at Kilnsea on 21st and 29th October (JRS); at Bransdale on 26th and 27th October (J. Rawcliffe *et al*); south at Spurn on 31st October, and at Barmston on 17th November (KR).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

The few early arrivals included singles at Fairburn Ings and Tophill Low Res. on 31st March; at Wath Ings on 1st April; at Pugney's G.P. (four) and Winterset Res. on 2nd; at Boroughbridge (three), Broomfleet and the Lower Derwent on 3rd. The majority came after mid April, with 30 at Castle Howard on 19th; 40 at Fairburn Ings on 21st, and 50 at Knotford Nook on 26th.

By far the largest concentration in the first half of the season was at Hornsea Mere during May, with 400 on 6th; 420 on 12th and 22nd, and 720 on 27th and 28th.

In most areas there was no improvement in the breeding situation. The coastal cliffs north and south of Hornsea had less than 20% of numbers in the earlier 1980s. Apparently very few at Flamborough, and further north only noted on five days at Filey, and only one record from the Scarborough area. In V.C. 63 no fully confirmed reports of breeding. A healthier situation in V.C. 64, with several colonies reported including one of 35 pairs at Castley on the River Wharfe. On the borders of V.C. 64 and V.C. 65 about 300 nests were counted at Masham. Further north at Leyburn birds were unfortunately flooded out of their nests. In the York area three colonies held small numbers, and others may have bred along the River Ouse north of the city.

The highest autumn counts were of 600 at Blacktoft Sands on 1st August; 350 at Leventhorpe on 23rd; 220 at Fairburn Ings on 26th; 250 at Pugney's G.P. on 27th August, and 800 on 22nd August, and 300 on 2nd September at Tophill Low Res.

Autumn passage at Spurn totalled 1,016 compared with 256 in 1984.

Recorded at ten sites during October. These included 24 at Sprotbrough Flash on 5th; three at Nosterfield G.P. on 6th; two at Hornsea Mere and one at Thrybergh Res. on 7th; one at Fairburn Ings, and nine at Spurn on 12th.

An albino at Blacktoft Sands on 29th July.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Two early records on 21st March of one at Fairburn Ings and three over Flockton Moor. One to two on 2nd April at North Hull, Keswick Fitts, Winterset Res., and Wath Ings. Small but then increasing numbers throughout the county during April until the bulk of arrivals came in early May.

Hornsea Mere had over 3,000 on 23rd and 28th May, and 3,600 on 27th May, and over 2,000 on several other days in that month. 250 at Pugney's G.P. on 27th April; 2,000 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 14th May, and 450 at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd May, but few other places had maxima of over 100.

Spurn had an encouraging spring passage, with 7,077 during May including 1,150 on 25th. The autumn passage was also considerably higher than in 1984, with a total of 23,846 from 31st July onwards.

No marked increase in breeding numbers, and the autumn gatherings were smaller than those of 1984.

1,250 at Hornsea Mere on 7th August; 3,149 west along the Humber on 17th August, and 5,000 at South Kirkby in late August and early September. On 11th September 800 at Blacktoft Sands, 3,000 at Fairburn Ings and 5,000 at Winterset Res. 500 at Denton on 20th September, and 20,000 at Rockley from 20th to 23rd September. 700 at Old Denaby on 4th October.

Recorded at 11 localities in November, with singles on 9th at Spurn and on the Lower Derwent; on 10th at Fairburn Ings and at Hay-a-Park G.P. up to 16th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

The first were a little earlier than usual commencing with one in the Lower Derwent area on 3rd April, then singles at Gouthwaite Res. and Almsford End on 5th; at Thrybergh Res. on 6th; at Harrogate S.F. and Spurn on 7th, and at Denaby Ings and Fairburn Ings on 8th.

100 at Ingbirchworth Res. on 25th April, and 250 on 12th May, and 100 to 200 at five other localities in early May. 500 at Worsbrough S.F. on 22nd May, and 250 at Knostrop S.F., and 1,020 at Hornsea Mere on 27th May.

The spring passage at Spurn showed an increase of about 1,000 over 1984, with a total of 2,343, but the autumn total of 3,011 was only about 10% up.

Flocks of 200 to 300 at nine localities during the autumn, and larger numbers as follows: 320 at Potteric Carr on 22nd July; 350 at Leventhorpe and 482 at Gouthwaite Res. on 23rd August; 520 at Hornsea Mere on 5th September, and 300 at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 1st October.

350 roosted on a factory roof at Clifton, York from 19th to 25th September.

Observations of visible migration included 450 west at Redmires Res. on 8th September in ten minutes, and 500 south at South Kirkby on 25th September. Regular watches at Thrybergh Res., where 290 went south on 25th August; 617 west-south-west on 15th September, and 600 were over the reservoir on 16th.

The last records during November were of two at Skipwith Common on 8th; singles at Alverley, Doncaster on 9th; at Tinsley S.F. and Spurn on 10th, and at High Green, near Penistone on 11th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Singles at Spurn on 15th and 16th October, and another north-west on 31st, which may have been the same as one flying west at Kilnsea (SML). One at Flamborough on 20th October (JCL, AS). One at Sammy's Point near Easington on 3rd November (SML).

For the second successive year one in the Sheffield area, this time at Tinsley Park on 21st October (DBM).

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

A juvenile at Saltend Marsh, Hull on 21st and 22nd September (SLJ *et al*).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Early arrivals at Haw Park and Bretton Park on 5th April; at Hetchell Woods on 6th, and at Hugsett Woods and Blacktoft Sands on 9th April.

A steady arrival of small numbers from 14th April, with larger numbers in early May.

An obvious influx along the coast from 14th to 17th May, with from nine to 31 at Spurn during these dates; ten at Kilnsea on 14th, and eight on 15th; 18 at Flamborough on 14th, 36 on 15th, and ten on 16th, and 24 at Bempton on 15th.

No apparent change in breeding status. Good numbers of singing males in many localities, including 23 at Langsett and the Upper Little Don Valley on 28th May.

Late singles in the Harrogate area on 1st, and at Spurn on 2nd October.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

A flock of 70 at Wath Ings on 21st January was the largest reported, numbers at other favourite sites being generally rather low.

North-westerly passage at Spurn peaked at 124 on 31st March, and 500 on 3rd April, on which date 500 moved north over Bempton. Other evidence of return passage included 107 at Esholt S.W. on 30th March; 170 at Pugney's G.P. on 3rd April; 150 over Muker, Swaledale on 20th; nearly 300 at Digley, and 150 near Wath, Nidderdale on 28th April, and 100 at Thorpe Marsh on 14th May.

30,741 south at Spurn during the autumn, with distinct peaks of 6,000 on 17th September, and 4,830 on 7th October.

Well recorded at many inland migration watch-points, with most of the movements being to the south or south-west. Over Thrybergh 1,043 during September, and 1,480 during October. One hour counts at Redmires Res. of 456 on 25th September, and 400 on 6th October. 1,821 over the Huddersfield area from 2nd to 13th October, including 450 in an hour over Wholestone Moor on 6th. Smaller counts of 200 to 300 during the period 12th September to 7th October over Knaresborough, Ilkley Moor and Esholt S.W. 389 over Saltend, Hull on 18th September, and 108 west at Sunk Island on 22nd.

Flocks of 200 each on Baildon Moor, at Linton in Wharfedale, and in the Ribble Valley during September.

104 roosting on Strensall Common on 3rd November. 113 at Barmston on 28th December.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

One on the Yorkshire/Derbyshire border at Rother Valley Country Park from 20th to 23rd May (RG, DH).

A male at Filey from 12th to 14th June (PMS *et al*).

The seventh and eighth records for the county.

Both records accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Singles of the British race, *A.s. petrosus* at six inland sites in the early months, mainly in late March and early April, and at Pugney's G.P., with three there on 1st April, and one as late as 3rd May.

In autumn singles at eight inland sites between 28th September and 22nd October, some of which were not subspecifically identified, and singles in November on the Lower Derwent on 12th; at Broomhead Res. on 17th, and at Winterset Res. on 19th. Blacktoft Sands had one to two from 1st November onwards, and four on 27th.

Bred on the cliffs north from Bridlington to the Cleveland boundary.

Present along the coast and the River Humber outside the breeding season, with a maximum of 12 at Spurn on 13th November, where autumn passage totalled 186 south, including 25 on 20th October.

Birds showing the characteristics of the race, *A.s. littoralis* at Cherry Cobb, with six on 17th March and four on 13th October; at Saltend, with four on 1st and 25th March, eight on 23rd and six on 24th September; at Filey, five on 30th March; at Flamborough, two on 17th March, and at Esholt S.W. one on 23rd March.

Birds showing the characteristics of Water Pipit, *A.s. spinoletta* at Blacktoft Sands from 1st January to 10th April, with a second one on 8th April, and on 8th and 10th October, and 22nd December; at Saltend, two on 28th and one on 29th October, and at Rathmell Beck near Settle from 19th November to the year-end.

Addition to the 1984 Report: One at Redmires Res. from 1st to 6th November showed the characteristics of Water Pipit.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

One at Fairburn Ings on 30th March, then two each at Tophill Low Res., Denaby Ings, Broomhill Flash and Pugney's G.P. on 3rd April; others at Cockersdale S.F., Leeds and at Broomfleet on 4th, and at Masham G.P., Knaresborough Ringing Station and on the Lower Derwent on 5th.

Larger parties of 20 on 9th and 32 on 20th April at Blacktoft Sands; 26 at Fairburn Ings on 21st; 28 at Winterset Res. on 24th; 20 at Bolton-on-Swale on 25th, and at Pugney's G.P. 25 on 27th increased to 45 by 29th. 28 at Hornsea Mere on 27th May.

Breeding populations not considered to be particularly large in most areas. 25 pairs on Malham Moor on 20th June. Although well distributed along Swaledale during May, only four parties totalling 22 were located during three months of intensive fieldwork from July to September (DIF).

Autumn flocks of 20 to 30 at Pugney's G.P., at Goldsborough and at Knostrop S.F. 40 at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd August, and 58 at Wombwell Ings on 28th. Southerly passage at Spurn totalled 507 from August to October. 23 south at Ardsley Res. on 29th September, and singles there and at Blacktoft Sands on 12th October, with later ones at Fairburn Ings on 13th; at East Bierley on 15th, and at Filey on 16th October.

Individuals showing the characteristics of the Blue-headed race, *M.f. flava*, at 11 localities between 6th April (one at Blacktoft Sands) and 8th June (one at Esholt S.W.) the maximum being three at Hornsea Mere on 3rd May. A female paired with a male *M.f. flavissima* at Tophill Low Res. Singles at Broomhill Flash on 1st, and at Wombwell Ings on 2nd August.

One showing the characteristics of the Ashy-headed race, *M.f. cinereocapilla* at Broomhill Flash on 27th April (NWA, SCR).

Birds showing the characteristics of the Grey-headed race, *M.f. thunbergi* were two males at Flamborough on 15th (PAL, DGH); one at Filey on 18th (SC), and one at Kilnsea on 19th May (PIH).

One showing the characteristics of a male of the race known as Sykes's Wagtail, *M.f. beema* at Hornsea Mere on 4th May (GRB, SML).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

The breeding situation apparently shows little change from 1984.

Eight at Shirebrook, Sheffield on 19th January; ten at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 30th September, and eight between Tyersal and Tong on 13th October. 15 caught and ringed at Pool-in-Wharfedale between July and September.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

The largest roosts noted were at Huddersfield Civic Centre, 107 on 12th January; on Barnsley Town Hall, 150 on 29th January; at Tophill Low Res., 130 on 3rd February, and in the centre of Bradford, 100 on 4th and 5th February.

70 flying west at Thorngumbald in the space of five minutes on 28th January were probably moving to a nearby roost.

210 at Flamborough on 3rd August was the highest count from coastal localities.

Autumn gatherings of 100 to 125 at Nosterfield G.P. on 31st July; at Skipton S.W. on 18th August; at Knavesmire, York on 8th September; at Hampsthwaite on 15th; at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 19th; at Aldwarke on 29th September, and at Worsbrough on 26th October. Flocks of 25 in Upper Swaledale in September, but none there after 20th October.

Birds showing the characteristics of White Wagtail, *M.a. alba*, at more than 30 localities between 12th March and 26th May. 17 at Pugney's G.P. on 10th April and 12 at Blacktoft Sands on 18th April.

Singles near York on 8th September; at Fairburn Ings on 13th October, and near Tingley on 18th.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Singles at two sites in York on 19th and 24th January respectively, and one at Heslington from 22nd January to 24th February.

During November, one north at Spurn on 12th; three on 17th and two on 19th at Scalby Manor; three west at Hull Docks on 19th; one at Willerby on 24th and 27th, and four at Wilsic, Doncaster on 30th.

During December, singles at Dunnington Common near York on 6th; at Tophill Low Res. on 18th, and at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 27th, and three over Bramhope on 29th.

Addition to the 1984 Report: One in a garden at Ecclesall on 26th March.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

A common breeding bird of the Pennines and North Yorkshire Moors, and reported to be in good numbers in the three western vice-counties. At least four pairs in the Howardian Hills, and one pair at a site in the Wolds.

Between Leyburn and Middleham two pairs nested within two miles, and raised five young. Eight pairs in the Penistone area. A pair bred again at Scalby Beck near the sea.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Many societies in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 report a healthy breeding situation with distinct increases in some areas. The population at Fairburn Ings had increased from eight to 15 pairs. In the Barnsley area 60 pairs at Worsbrough, and 21 at Hugset Wood, and near Doncaster, 20 pairs at Sprotbrough and 25 at Wilsic. 73 males at Shirebrook, Sheffield in April and May.

Good breeding numbers at Tophill Low Res., with 30 pairs present, but a decrease at Hornsea Mere to 60 singing males, against 106 in 1983.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Breeding numbers were either maintained or showed increases at sites where counts were undertaken.

At least 35 pairs each at Saltend and Wilsic; an increase to 15 pairs at Fairburn Ings, and 46 singing males at Hornsea Mere. 52 males at Shirebrook in April and May.

Some evidence of passage during October. 37 handled at the Point at Spurn on 7th; 24 at Cherry Cobb on 13th some of which were flying over, and 20 at High Batts on 20th.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Most areas reported a healthy breeding situation and counts included, 40 pairs at Worsbrough, and 22 at Hugset Wood near Barnsley, and 48 males in the Shirebrook Valley in April and May. A 30% decrease on 1983 to 24 pairs at Hornsea Mere.

A slight influx at inland sites during late October in line with more obvious peaks along the coast, such as 131 at Flamborough (on 27th); 49 at Spurn; 15 at Filey, and 27 at Saltend on the Humber.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Two at Spurn on 6th May, and singles on 9th, 10th, 14th and 15th. One male at Branton, Doncaster on 16th June.

None reported from Hatfield Moors where peat extraction is destroying the habitat.

Five singing males on Thorne Moors.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

An incredible influx occurred along the east coast of Britain during May from Suffolk to the Shetland Isles. The first appeared on 8th May, and numbers peaked on 14th and 15th, the highest counts being in Scotland on the Isle of May and Fair Isle.

The first for Yorkshire were singles on 9th May at Filey and Spurn. It is difficult to know precisely how many different individuals were involved, but minimum estimates for the coastal sites are 13 at Spurn; one at Kilnsea; 27 at Flamborough; nine at Bempton, and seven at Filey.

Birds present at Spurn from 9th to 24th May, with a maximum of eight on 15th including five males. A female at Kilnsea probably from 14th to 20th May. At Flamborough three males on 12th with the last (a male) on 24th, and a peak of ten (nine males) on 15th. Nine at Bempton on 15th May. At Filey at least five on 14th, and four on 15th, of which three were males, all of the red-spotted race, *L.s. svecica* as were all those involved during the influx.

A male and a female in a garden at Bramhope, Leeds on 18th May.

A first-winter male of the red-spotted race at Flamborough on 14th October.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

The usual spring influx commenced with one at Flamborough on 16th March, and from then until early May one to two occurred at seven coastal sites, two sites along the Humber, and at five sites further inland. Higher numbers at Flamborough, with 11 on 6th, and 13 on 7th April, and at Spurn, with up to seven in mid April.

In Sheffield two pairs each reared three young, and two other pairs held territories in the city. At Drax Power Station birds present from 1st June (one male) to 4th September (two males), with three pairs there on 12th June.

A male sang at a Doncaster site for several weeks during the spring, and another did so at a site in Bradford from 20th June to 17th July.

A pair bred in the centre of a coastal village rearing three young.

Located at Spurn on 22 days between 19th October and 7th December, usually one or two, but five on 23rd October. Three at Flamborough on 20th October, then two, and down to one on 25th. Two at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 24th October, and one at Frickley on 25th.

Addition to the 1984 Report: Two pairs bred successfully in Sheffield.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Early singles at Bretton Park and Wath Ings on 5th April, then at Spurn on 11th, and Settle on 12th, becoming more widespread from 13th April onwards to early May. A spring peak of coastal passage from 13th to 16th May, with maxima of 15 each at Spurn and Flamborough; seven at Filey, and six at Bempton.

Widely distributed in the Pennines, with most suitable woodlands holding a few pairs. A few pairs located in the north of the York area, and in the North Yorkshire Moors, but the latter area only partially covered by observers.

A few remained in breeding areas until September, but later records were probably passage birds, the last inland being at Bentley Grange, Doncaster on 16th, and at Fairburn Ings on 20th October, and on the coast one at Spurn on 24th, and two at Flamborough on 26th October.

Coastal passage in late September, with maxima of 27 on 22nd, and 42 on 23rd at Flamborough; eight on 23rd at Filey, and ten on 27th at Spurn.

A leucistic bird at Sugarwell Hill, Leeds on 3rd September.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

A male at Fairburn Ings on 7th April well in advance of the next one at Spurn, and a pair on Meltham Moor on 16th. One at Thrybergh on 20th April, but very few more until a general arrival in early May.

Evidence of passage along the coast with on 14th May, 11 at Filey; 25 at Flamborough; ten at Kilnsea and at Spurn, with up to 20 there to 16th, with other peaks at Flamborough of 22 on 6th, and 34 on 15th.

Generally considered to have had a good breeding season in V.C. 63, V.C. 64 and V.C. 65, and breeding also reported from the North Yorkshire Moors. Fewer pairs bred on Strensall Common than in the late 1970s.

Autumn passage not much in evidence inland the largest parties being 20 at Otley Chevin on 5th August, and 15 at Fairburn Ings on 26th.

26 at Spurn on 2nd September was the highest coastal count. Late singles at Accerhill Hall near Settle on 16th; at Thorpe Marsh on 17th; at Flamborough on 19th, and at Wath Ings on 25th October.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

V.C. 61: Generally a winter bird along the coast usually departing by early April, and returning in late September. Singles on occasional dates at Filey, Flamborough, Fraisthorpe, Withernsea, Easington and Spurn. Up to four at Cowden Range in the early months, and two at the year-end. Two at Saltend on 5th February, three on 26th October, and two on 29th. Two at Spurn on 10th, and three on 11th October. Singles inland at Fulford on 22nd January; at Tophill Low Res. on 27th October and 28th December, and at Knavesmire, York on 29th December.

Outside the above dates one at Filey from 8th to 16th May, and two on 18th, and one on 19th and 21st May at Spurn.

Siberian Stonechats. One at Spurn considered to belong to the race *S.t. stejnegeri*: first seen on 8th November 1984 remained to 3rd January. Single adult males probably of the race *S.t. maura* at Flamborough from 18th to 21st April (PAL, JCL, DGH), and from 16th to 20th May (PAL, AMA, DGH). A female at Spurn from 5th to 10th May was also considered to show the characteristics of the race *S.t. maura*.

A female or immature at Filey from 18th to 21st October (SC, HJW *et al*), and one at Spurn on 22nd October also showed characteristics of these Siberian races.

V.C. 62: No records received.

V.C. 63: During January, one at Potteric Carr to 12th; two in the Broomhead Moor area from 5th to 8th; one near Dunford Bridge on 12th, and three on Howden Moors on 13th, and regular sightings at Thorpe Marsh to 16th February.

One near Marsden on 16th March, and another at Whitley Common, Ingbirchworth on 23rd.

One at Walshaw Dean, Halifax on 29th April.

A male with two recently fledged young at Snailsden near Holmfirth on 17th July (JMP).

Autumn singles at Pugney's G.P. on 20th October and 15th December; at Bradfield on 21st, and at Carlton Marsh on 26th October; at Agden Beck on 10th, and at Thorpe Marsh on 21st November.

V.C. 64: One at Mickletown Ings on 2nd February. A male at Carthlick Wood from 19th to 26th August. Singles at Bogs Lane, Harrogate on 29th September; at Fairburn Ings from 16th to 27th October; at Eldwick Res. on 17th October, and at Barden Res. on 24th November. Two at Mickletown Ings from 3rd November to the year-end.

V.C. 65: No records received.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A male at Filey from 4th to 10th March was the earliest ever on the coast. The first inland at Beamsley, Wharfedale on 21st March, then one at Doncaster Airfield on 28th; singles on 30th March at Spurn, Redmires Res., Pugney's G.P. and Edderthorpe, and on 31st at six other places. A more general influx from 5th April when Spurn had 37, and 28 were at Broadstones near Ingbirchworth.

Larger numbers along the coast in mid May, with at Spurn, 38 on 14th, and 35 on 15th, and at Flamborough, 60 on 14th, and 135 on 15th. A few birds showing the characteristics of the Greenland race, *O.o. leucorroha* at Spurn and Thorpe Marsh in mid May.

Good numbers breeding in the Dales, and 74 pairs recorded near Carpley Green (V.C. 65).

However, in the North Yorkshire Moors, none were located in Upper Farndale and Rosedale between April and June (HOB).

Autumn counts at all sites in the county were low apart from Flamborough, with 48 on 25th August, and 54 on 26th. Eight on Emley Moor near Huddersfield on 15th October, and the last one at Saltend, Hull on 19th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

The only March records were singles at Digley near Huddersfield on 23rd, and at Burbage Brook on 31st. Arrival was in general late, with no more than nine reported from any locality. Singles at Foredale, Settle on 2nd April; at Broomhill on 3rd, and Gouthwaite on 4th, and at six other localities by 8th April.

Breeding situation appeared normal with pairs at many traditional sites in the Southern Pennines and the Dales, including several localities in Swaledale, and at least six pairs located in the North Yorkshire Moors.

One at Rivelin Valley, Sheffield on 5th October, but then all later records were from coastal sites, with four at Flamborough on 26th, and one at Spurn on 27th, and in November singles at Filey on 2nd, and Flamborough on 17th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

The roost at Spenfield, Headingley had 175 on 25th January, and 200 on 15th February, and the same number were at Bishopthorpe on 31st January, and 110 at Roche Abbey on 12th January were the only three-figure counts in the early months.

267 singing males located in an area of three-quarters of a square mile at Scawthorpe, Doncaster in the spring.

100 to 200 at Spurn on ten dates between 16th October and 17th November, plus peaks of 350 on 23rd, and 400 on 29th October.

140 to 270 at Flamborough on six dates between 7th October and 13th November, plus a peak of 1,600 on 26th October. 40 at Castle Hill, Scarborough, and 140 at Filey on 23rd October.

Evidence of the autumn influx at inland sites with 40 to 100 at about ten places, also 130 at Figham, Beverley on 28th November; 193 at Hobmoor, York on 1st December, and 164 at Fairburn Ings on 8th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Numbers in January were not exceptional and declined quite considerably by early February, and then remained low until late March. 1,000 at Gunthwaite, and 700 each at Silkstone and Cawthorne on 6th January; 880 at Worsbrough on 8th; 603 north at Filey on 13th; 705 at Flamborough on 27th; flocks of about 400 at six other places during January; 3,570 south over Blacktoft Sands on 25th January, and a flock of 650 at Hempholme near Brandesburton on 3rd February were the most significant numbers early in the year.

1,200 in the Ingbirchworth area on 23rd March. A total of 3,000 in the Westwick and Bishop Monkton area on 11th April, and 1,000 there on the following day. Flocks of about 400 at three other places in early April. May records from ten places including 70 on Lumley Moor on 6th; 140 near Bishop Monkton on 9th; 85 at Flamborough on 15th; 16 at Oxspring on 16th and occasional birds at Spurn in June up to 20th.

A pair may have bred as food carrying was observed regularly from 27th April to 5th May at a site in the centre of the county. One near Selby on 16th July.

A few August records included one at Filey on 14th; at least 20 near Catterick on 25th, and 12 at Almondbury, Huddersfield on 30th. A scattering of records through September and in early October, but no serious influx until the period 14th to 23rd October.

120 at High Batts on 4th October; 200 at Malham Tarn on 14th; 2,201 west over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 19th; 800 on 23rd, and 1,072 on 26th at Flamborough; 1,000 at Riccall on 26th; 600 at Aughton on 28th; and 330 at Spurn on 31st October.

Most areas had fewer during November although 2,770 were at Fairburn Ings on 4th. Reduced numbers in much of the county during December particularly by the month-end although there were good numbers early in the month near Doncaster, with 1,000 at Thorpe Marsh on 3rd; 800 at Wath Ings on 11th; 1,000 at Longthwaite Wood, 1,200 at Bentley Grange, and 1,500 at Sprotbrough Flash all on 14th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

A flock of 40 at Sprotbrough Flash on 19th January was the largest noted in the early months.

68 singing males at Scawthorpe, Doncaster in the spring.

Migrants arrived in small numbers between 21st September and 30th October, with maxima of 65 at Flamborough, and 70 at Saltend on 23rd September; 45 at Flamborough on 23rd October, and 30 at Spurn.

30 near Walshaw Res. on 1st September; 30 at Pool in Wharfedale, and 31 at Fairburn Ings on 26th October.

An increase at Spurn on the last three days of the year, with counts of 30, 45 and 60 respectively.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Some quite substantial flocks during January, but numbers low in February, and little higher in March apart from some evidence of return movement.

Flocks of 200 at Gunthwaite on 1st January; 300 at Rother Valley Country Park on 12th, and at Knostrop S.F. on 13th; 150 at Spurn in mid month; 630 at East Park, Hull on 29th, and five reports of flocks of about 200 in the Leeds area during January. 580 east over Worsbrough on 6th; 843 north at Filey, and 595 at Flamborough on 13th; and 350 roosting at Spenfield, Headingley on 25th January.

During March flocks of 150 to 300 at Storwood near York, Horsforth, Harrogate Stray, Hugset Wood and Leventhorpe. Few after early April apart from small numbers at coastal sites, with the last at Spurn on 17th June. A male sang at Barden Moor on 11th May.

Of six September reports a flock of 19 over High Batts near Ripon on 22nd was the largest. 110 at Spurn on 9th October before the major influx from 13th, with nocturnal movements heard during the next ten days at many localities.

During October, 1,120 west at Cherry Cobb on 13th; 989 over Thorngumbald in 30 minutes on 15th; 400 on 18th, 250 on 23rd and 600 on 26th, at Spurn; 208 west at Leyburn on 19th, and 385 west at Redmires Res. on 20th; 684 on 19th, 935 on 20th, and 807 on 26th over High Batts; 1,040 on 23rd and 9,175 on 26th at Flamborough; 878 on 26th, and 205 on 27th west at Sunk Island; 315 on 26th, and 368 on 28th west at Saltend; 518 over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 27th, and 250 at Aughton on 28th.

Over 1,000 roosted at Thorp Arch during November, and a flock of 700 at Worsbrough on 27th November.

Southerly movement over Fairburn of 2,535 on 1st, and 1,550 on 3rd December. 800 at Thorpe Marsh on 3rd, and at Sprotbrough on 14th December, and 650 at Oswaldkirk on 30th December.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Small flocks of about 20 during January at Sugarwell Hill, Leeds and Gouthwaite, and during February at Lindley Wood Res., and 30 at Pudsey on 10th February.

A number of substantial flocks located in the late summer and early autumn indicated a satisfactory breeding season. In July, 60 in the Little Don Valley on 6th; 50 at Carlton, Barnsley on 13th, and 72 at Greenhow Hill on 18th. 64 near Ingbirchworth on 3rd August, and 70 at Keswick Fitts on 9th. During September, 51 at Eccup Moor on 9th; 77 at Esholt S.W. on 20th, and 50 each at Copgrove and Redmires Res. on 29th. 50 on Otley Chevin during October.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

A female overwintering at Blacktoft Sands recorded on 11th and 25th January; 3rd and 5th February and 9th March (AG).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Appeared at eight sites during April, with the first at Thorne Moors on 9th, then at Broomfleet on 14th; Carlton Marsh on 15th; Grassington on 16th, and at Shirebrook on 17th.

Numbers were higher than in 1983 and 1984, particularly in the south, with reports from 18 localities in V.C. 63. Remains scarce in the York area, and also in V.C. 62 and V.C. 65.

Breeding sites, and possible breeding sites, where males held territory for much of the season were Carlton Marsh, Shirebrook, Blacktoft Sands (three pairs), Thorpe Marsh, Owston Wood and Wadworth Wood.

Cowden Range again had the largest population, with at least 20 males singing on 13th May (GRB). Two males singing on Austwick Moors in late June. One reeling at Hornsea Mere from 12th to 14th July.

Present at seven sites during August, with the last ones at Pontefract Racecourse on 14th, and at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 18th.

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*

One at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 10th August (JMT). The eighth record for the county.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

There were a few early singles during April, including birds at Broomfleet on 9th; at Blacktoft Sands on 10th; at Tophill Low Res. on 17th, and at Fairburn Ings and in the Lower Derwent area on 24th. A more general arrival commenced on 7th May.

Breeding numbers reduced in the Lower Derwent and Pocklington Canal areas; at Hornsea Mere, which had between 30 and 40 pairs, and at Flamborough Head, with about ten pairs. Breeding counts elsewhere where numbers showed little change included Tophill Low Res. with 30 pairs; Saltend, Hull seven pairs; Blacktoft Sands 60 pairs; and Fairburn Ings had 55 singing males.

Late individuals at three places in early October, and the last were at Tophill Low Res. on 11th, and at Blacktoft Sands on 19th October.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Two singles at Spurn, one from 15th to 17th May, and the other caught there on 11th June.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A general arrival from 4th May apart from birds at Blacktoft Sands from 23rd April, and at Rosscarrs near the River Derwent on 28th April.

Breeding counts included 350 pairs at Blacktoft Sands, and at least 50 pairs elsewhere in V.C. 63, although numbers at Potteric Carr were not reported. At least 54 pairs in the York area the majority being in the Lower Derwent and Pocklington Canal areas. At least 21 pairs at Fairburn Ings; probably 15 pairs at Mickletown Ings; 27 pairs at Tophill Low Res., and 14 pairs at Saltend, Hull. Bred at Hornsea Mere but no numbers submitted. In the north of the species range at Scarborough one singing male at the Mere, and two at Seamer G.P. on 26th May, and at least four at the Mere on 17th July. Appears to be decreasing in parts of V.C. 64, with few reports away from Hay-a-Park G.P. and the Lower Aire Valley.

Singles at Carlton Marsh on 12th October; Blacktoft Sands on 17th; Flamborough on 24th, and at Spurn the latest ever for the reserve, one on 29th and 30th October.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Rather scarce this year with only five singles recorded, all during the autumn. At Spurn Point on 31st August; at Sammy's Point, Easington on 3rd September (BF); at Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 22nd September (JH); at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 4th October (DIF), and near Kilnsea Church on 13th October.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

One at Flamborough on 22nd September (PAL, AMA, DGH, JCL). Fifth record for Flamborough and the county.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

Two spring records at Spurn, both males, the first in the big hedge area from 17th to 21st April (PB, BRS *et al*), and the second near Kilnsea Church from 30th May to 3rd June (SML, MFS *et al*).

Both records accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

One at Spurn Point on 25th August; two at Flamborough on 28th September, and one remaining on 29th (PAL *et al*), and one at Kilnsea on 20th October (VAL, KR *et al*).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Singles at Flamborough on 16th April, then at Spurn and at Stainton Little Wood (Doncaster) on 20th; at Denaby Ings and Thrybergh Res. on 22nd; at Fairburn Ings on 23rd, and at Sturges Pond, Selby on 24th April.

A more general arrival from 6th May. Coastal passage peaked on 15th May, with 21 at Spurn, 14 at Flamborough and 12 at Filey.

Good numbers bred in the south of the county away from the Pennines including 14 pairs

in the Shirebrook Valley, and seven pairs at Winterset. Continues to show a slight increase east of Leeds and Harrogate. Reported from 14 sites in the York area mainly along the Derwent Valley, and near the City. Increasing in the east and south of V.C. 61, with several pairs each at Hornsea, Cowden, Saltend and Broomfleet. Rarely recorded in the northern half of the county although a pair bred at Round Howe, Richmond.

11 at Spurn on 30th August. Few inland during September the last being at Winterset Res. on 27th. The last on the coast at Spurn on 24th, and Flamborough on 27th October.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Siberian race, *S. c. blythi* at Flamborough on 27th and 29th September, and 26th to 27th October, and at Filey on 28th September.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Early singles at Fairburn Ings on 10th April, and at Bramham Park on 12th. A few scattered singles before the month-end, with birds at Spurn on 18th; Copmanthorpe on 22nd, and at Potteric Carr on 26th. The main influx to all parts from 2nd to 16th May. Coastal passage peaked in mid May, with up to 20 at Spurn and 14 at Flamborough.

Most reports on the breeding population indicate a moderate increase on 1984. Favourable reports from the Barnsley area; the eastern districts of the Leeds and Harrogate areas, with 43 and 34 singing males respectively; and much of vice-county 61. Only moderate numbers in the York area, and some decline near Doncaster apart from Thorpe Marsh where the 1984 figures were doubled. A count of 32 singing males on Thorne Moors on 19th May.

Generally scarce in the north of the county, but several pairs in Swaledale, and four pairs at Pickering.

Late singles inland near Harrogate on 1st October, and at Thrybergh Tip on 6th, and the last on the coast at Spurn on 11th October.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

The majority arrived as usual during May particularly from 4th to 15th, but there was an unusual scatter of very early records in April with singles at Hetchell Woods on 2nd; at Bretton Park on 5th; in the Lower Derwent area on 14th; at Bramham Park on 19th, and at Sprotbrough Flash on 20th. 27 singing males at Skipwith Common on 16th May.

Breeding population unchanged in most areas, although quite thinly distributed in the east of V.C. 61. More frequent in Swaledale than Whitethroat, *S. communis*.

Singles at Wath Ings on 2nd October, and at Fairburn Ings on 5th. One found dead at Acomb, York on 26th October. Singles at Spurn on 1st and 23rd November.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Reported from 44 sites in the early months, 15 of these in the Leeds area, and 13 in the Harrogate area. Fewer wintering at the year-end, with reports from only 11 sites during December.

Singles at Fairburn Ings on 1st April, and at Esholt S.W. on 4th, and at Denaby Ings and Old Denaby at least seven on 3rd April. Appeared at most regular localities during the next three weeks being well established by early May.

A pair at Rievaulx Terrace were feeding a pure albino juvenile during May.

Passage during the autumn months was moderate the highest count at Spurn being 17 on 7th October.

Recorded at many localities during October, and at a few during November departure dates being obscured by the over-wintering situation.

Two on a British Gas platform 15 miles off Withernsea on 29th November.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

One by Kilnsea Church on 24th and 25th October (KR, AW).

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

At Flamborough singles during October from 22nd to 29th; 22nd to 24th; 25th to 26th; and on 27th (PAL, AMA, DGH, AG, JCL *et al*). These four records have not yet been submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

An exceptional autumn influx commenced on 22nd September, and during the next five weeks it is believed that at least 56 individuals appeared in the county. This was part of a major influx into Britain and Ireland between 22nd September and 31st October that totalled at least 615 individuals.

Two at Spurn, eight at Flamborough, and one at Filey on 22nd September formed the commencement of the influx, but the pattern of arrivals was less clear thereafter. At Spurn, a total of at least 18 up to the last one on 1st November, with a maximum of four on 26th October. A total of 33 at Flamborough, with six on 27th and 28th September, five on 22nd October, and the last two on 26th October.

Singles only at other localities, with one inland at Shaw Wood, Huddersfield on 27th September (CCT, JB); one at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 6th October (RNH); one at Kilnsea on 19th and 21st October, and a second at Filey on 24th October (SC *et al*).

One caught at Spurn on 26th October showed characteristics of the race *P.i. humei*.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

One at Flamborough on 26th October (PAL).

The fourth record for the county.

Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Early arrivals in late April in various parts, with individuals at Winterset on 26th; Worsbrough on 27th; Wass, Hebers Ghyll and Black Carr Woods, Pudsey on 28th, and at Duncombe Park on 30th.

Only two reports from V.C. 61 away from Spurn which had birds on 11 days between 5th May and 7th September. A relatively good year in V.C. 62, with five singing in the Forge Valley and seven at Wass, and present and probably breeding at seven other sites in the North Yorkshire Moors and Howardian Hills.

Bred at eight sites in V.C. 63, and present at 15 other sites. At least 30 singing males to the west and north-west of Sheffield. A very good year in V.C. 64, with good numbers of singing males at Bolton Abbey (21); Adel Woods (ten); and Spa Gill (nine). At least 17 pairs in the Richmond area, and also in V.C. 65 pairs in Colsterdale, and at Keld.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Single birds during January and February at 18 sites including one on four dates at Tophill Low Res., and two at Wath Ings on 31st January. One at York University on 29th January showed characteristics of the race *P.c. abietinus*. It is difficult to be certain of the first genuine arrivals, but birds were at more than 15 localities in late March, including singles at Winterset on 14th; Shirebrook on 17th; Worsbrough and Wath Ings on 18th, and there was a widespread influx from 31st March to 5th April.

No apparent change in breeding status and remains quite scarce in the northern dales.

Passage birds showing characteristics of various eastern races included one of the race *P.c. abietinus* at Filey from 6th to 12th May, and others at Flamborough on more typical dates between 21st October and 13th November, with a maximum of five on 23rd October. Also at Flamborough birds showing characteristics of the race *P.c. tristis* on 28th September, 22nd, 24th and 30th October, and one of the *fulvescens* form of this race on 22nd October.

Late singles at Rivelin, Sheffield on 6th November; at Agden on 7th December, and at Hunmanby on 12th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

One at Spurn on 2nd and two on 3rd April when three were at Winterset Res. and one was at Parlington Park. Became widespread from 4th to 6th when 27 were in the Shirebrook Valley. 95 singing males in Howell Wood by 28th April.

Well established at inland breeding localities by the time coastal passage reached its peak during May, with 20 at Filey and 57 at Flamborough on 6th; 170 on 14th and 130 on 15th at Flamborough, and 70 at Spurn on 15th.

At least 58 pairs in the Tophill Low area on 16th June.

Dispersal at inland sites widely reported during July, when Winterset Res. had 70 on 13th and 50 on 27th.

Autumn passage at Spurn peaked between 22nd and 26th August, with daily totals from 80 to 150; at Flamborough on 18th August with 90, and at Filey on 22nd August with 70.

October records at ten inland sites, with the last two at Wath Ings on 16th, and at three coastal sites, with two at Scarborough on 23rd, and one at Flamborough on 29th.

A very late individual at Pugney's G.P. on 7th December.

Birds showing the characteristics of the race *P.t. acredula* at Hornsea Mere on 27th April, and at Flamborough on 15th April, and a further 27 bird days between 6th and 24th May, including 12 on 15th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Breeding status unchanged remaining widespread in woodlands where conifers occur.

Little evidence of autumn passage from inland localities apart from 60 in Lindley Wood on 24th October, and at least 25 at Thorpe Marsh in late November.

Coastal passage peaked during October, with at Spurn 110 on 10th; 155 on 23rd, and 117 on 24th; at Atwick 100 on 24th; at Castle Hill, Scarborough 60 on 23rd; at Filey 47 on 26th, and at Flamborough from 22nd to 24th counts of 185, 206 and 450, and from 26th to 28th counts of 273, 265 and 100 respectively.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

One at Flamborough on 31st March, and two on 13th April; one at Spurn on 3rd April; two on 4th; one on 5th, and one on 20th; two at Kilnsea on 5th April (EHW), and one at Aldbrough on 15th (AAJ). Rather fewer than normal for the spring months.

A similarly modest autumn passage mainly in late October apart from singles at Filey on 28th (PJD, HJW) and Concord Park, Sheffield on 29th September (JPS). At Spurn from 24th to 29th October counts of two, one, four, five, three and one respectively, and at Flamborough singles on 23rd, 25th and 28th October, three on 24th, eight on 26th, and two on 27th October, then singles later on 2nd, 7th and 9th November, and 7th December (PAL *et al*).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Apart from one at High Batts and two at Langsett on 5th May; singles at Bolton Abbey on 8th, at Lindley Wood on 9th, and Settle on 10th, the general influx did not commence until 15th May and continued into early June.

Coastal peak of passage in late May, with 26 at Flamborough on 26th, and 24 on 28th, when Spurn had 15.

A successful breeding season reported from all parts of the county, and particularly abundant in Swaledale, Wensleydale and Wharfedale including 33 in Bolton Abbey Woods on 26th May. Parties of ten or more at five inland sites in late July and August.

Coastal passage very light in the autumn the highest count being 19 at Flamborough on 22nd September.

Singles in October at Spurn on 10th, and in the Coxley Valley near Horbury on 16th.

Redbreasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

One at Spurn on 27th September and one at Filey on 28th which fed at the end of the Brigg until the tide came in. Singles at Flamborough on 14th and 27th October, and at Spurn on 22nd October.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*

An adult male feeding along a hawthorn hedge near the Country Park at Filey during the afternoon of 21st May remained until dusk on 22nd (TL *et al*).

The first record for the county.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

V.C. 61: One at Spurn on 30th April, then one to four at various coastal sites from 6th May onwards to the month-end, with peaks of ten and 14 at Flamborough on 14th and 15th May. Elsewhere singles at Stone Creek and Hull Docks, and two at Tophill Low Res. on 13th August.

Two peaks of passage on the coast, with 17 at Spurn on 29th August, and 20 at Filey on 30th August, and later 32 at Flamborough on 22nd and 23rd September. Last one at Spurn on 9th October.

V.C. 62: First one at Sleightholmedale on 27th April where a good population included many apparently unmated males which sang well into the season (GWF). Two males in Duncombe Park on 6th May, and one at Wass from 2nd to 11th June. Three pairs laid in recently erected nest boxes at Rievaulx Terrace. Two at Castle Hill, Scarborough on 28th September, and one at Fylingdales on 18th October.

V.C. 63: One at Deanhead Church, Scammonden on 18th April, and on 21st, two at Denaby Ings and one at Bretton Park. A few on passage at four other sites from late April into May. Bred at Broomhead and other sites near Sheffield. A male held territory at Stainborough for six weeks. Noted on autumn passage at six places including Denaby Ings, with two on 4th and one on 6th September.

V.C. 64: A pair in Strid Woods on 27th April and a male at Harlow Car Gardens on 30th. 14 males in a total of 16 in Bolton Abbey Woods on 26th May. Five pairs raised 30 young in Folly Hall Wood in the Washburn Valley. One at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 26th August was the last of the few noted on passage.

V.C. 65: Six broods at West Applegarth mostly in newly established nest boxes; four broods at Feldon, and also bred at Catterick Garrison. Ten singing males at Birk Gill, Colsterdale, and two near Leighton Res. during June.

Bearded Tit *Parurus biarmicus*

About 150 at Blacktoft Sands in January and February where approximately 90 pairs bred. Overall breeding success was only moderate as early broods were adversely affected by the cold wet weather, but later broods had better success in improved conditions. Autumn eruptions commenced on 16th September, and numbers peaked at about 600 during October with the later broods, and had declined by early November leaving 200 to winter.

Present at Potteric Carr from 20th May to 28th June, with at least one male and one female present during much of June.

Two pairs at Fairburn Ings on 7th April (from which two birds remained to 21st April), and three birds on 21st October. One at Otley S.F. on 23rd June, and pairs at Old Denaby on 13th October; at Winterset Res. on 2nd November, and in the south of the York area from 13th November.

Following the trends of recent years there was a further increase in records in the east of the county in V.C. 61.

Small numbers at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge, and at Broomfleet Ponds during January. At Saltend, Hull a maximum of 17 on 17th January, then fewer in February; up to seven in March to 19th, and one on 1st April. King George Dock, Hull had 16 on 24th February, and a few on other dates.

Present at Spurn and Kilnsea on 11 dates in October from 15th, including a total of ten on 30th, and one on 14th November. Regularly at Saltend from 28th September to the year-end, with eight early and late in that period, and peaks of ten on 12th, and 21 on 26th October, and 14 on 1st November. Up to six at Broomfleet Ponds during the last three months of the year; up to eight at Hornsea Mere, and near Tophill Low from 13th October to the end of November, with ten on 22nd October. Four on 20th and three on 26th October at Flamborough, and one on 7th December, and two at Pulfin Bog on 22nd and 29th December.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Although becoming increasingly scarce in the east of the county, is flourishing in the west and south.

Flocks during the summer of 25 at Sutton Ings, Lower Derwent on 19th June; 29 at Winterset Res. on 29th June, and 43 on 16th August; 41 at Tophill Low Res. on 21st July, and 60 on 21st August; 37 in the Upper Moss Valley on 28th August, and 41 at Bishop Monkton Ings on 10th August.

Autumn and winter flocks of 20 to 40 at Flamborough, Hornsea, Tophill Low, Thorpe Marsh, Ardsley Res., Penistone, Lepton Great Wood and Sprotbrough Flash. Flocks of just over 50 at High Batts and at Roundhay Park at the end of September, and at Pateley Bridge on 27th November.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

V.C. 61: Present at Scrayingham near York; at Tophill Low Res., two on 2nd January, and one on 23rd February, and at Birdsall one on 17th August.

V.C. 62: Bred at Hovingham Wood and Yearsley Common, and also present at five other localities north of York and south of the Howardian Hills.

V.C. 63: Present for most of the year at Roche Abbey (six on 4th March), and at Anston Stones Wood, and fairly frequently at Wilsic and Firbeck, with isolated records mainly in the spring at Pebley Pond, Moss Valley, Ivy Lodge Wood and Longthwaite Wood.

V.C. 64: Quite common in deciduous woodland to the east of the area, and present up Wharfedale as far as Buckden. 12 between Buckden and Starbottle on 16th February, and ten at the latter village on 1st September. 18 at High Batts on 27th July. Occurred at two sites near Settle.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

V.C. 61: Present all year in the south of the York area. A family party at Fordon on 14th June. Possibly bred at Tophill Low and Saltend. One to two at eight other sites.

V.C. 62: Five at Anchor Plain on 3rd August, and one at Kirkham on 12th October. Two at Rievaulx on 3rd August.

V.C. 63: Quite widespread in small numbers in the Doncaster, Rotherham, Barnsley and Sheffield areas, and apparently maintaining its breeding status. An increase in records in the Huddersfield area. Parties of nine at Upper Whiston on 8th January, and ten at Worsbrough on 11th July.

V.C. 64: Numbers in the Leeds area have still not recovered from earlier hard winters. Ten at High Batts on 23rd August, and 15 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd November.

One showing the characteristics of the Northern race, *P.m. borealis* at Duncombe Park on 21st November.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Small flocks that were significant in their respective areas included 25 at Haw Park on 9th, and 20 at Barrow Hills, Doncaster on 16th February; 38 at Eccup Res. on 19th August; 20 at Ogden Res. on 24th September, and 15 at Anley near Settle on 28th October.

Some evidence of coastal passage particularly of birds showing characteristics of the Continental race, *P.a. ater*, at Flamborough in late September and October, and at Spurn during the same period.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Flocks in the early months of 200 at Lindley Wood on 5th, and 67 at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd January; 100 at Fountains Abbey in February; 50 at Fulford Golf Course on 15th March, and at Sprotbrough most of the year. Over 250 in Adel Woods on 20th June was indicative of a successful breeding season, and other summer flocks were 75 at Worsbrough on 11th July; 62 at Tophill Low Res. on 12th August, and 65 in the Upper Moss Valley on 28th.

100 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 1st October, and 114 at Tophill Low Res. on 12th November.

An autumn influx along the coast had maxima of 80 at Spurn in early October, and 60 at Filey in mid month, and at Flamborough 90 on 27th and 115 on 28th September, and over 70 on four October days including 170 on 23rd.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Flocks of 30 to 45 in the early months at Lindley Wood, Fountains Abbey, Strid Wood and Wilsic.

65 at Sprotbrough on 27th March.

65 in Adel Woods on 20th June, and 45 in the Upper Moss Valley on 28th August.

47 at Tophill Low Res. on 12th November; 70 in Bretton Park on 14th December, and 50 in Howell Wood during December.

Highest coastal passage count of 25 at Flamborough on 23rd October.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

General indications are of a slow increase in breeding numbers, and of widening distribution.

V.C. 61: Very scarce with only two records of singles: at Scampston on 18th March, and at Aughton Ings on 22nd December.

V.C. 62: Occurred during the breeding season in eight localities in the north of the York area, including six in Slingsby Bank Wood on 28th April. Reported from a further eight localities north and south of the Vale of Pickering, with pairs breeding at Duncombe Park and near Kirkbymoorside.

V.C. 63: Bred at two sites near Huddersfield, two near Doncaster, in the Moss Valley, and probably at Roche Abbey which had six on 7th July, and a winter maximum of five. Present at Bretton Park in May, and Hagg Wood, Huddersfield in June. A juvenile found dead in Sandbeck Park on 5th June. Noted at a further nine sites outside the breeding season.

V.C. 64: An increase in numbers in the Leeds and Bradford areas. Populations maintained in the Wharfedale strongholds. More than usual at High Batts, and at Knaresborough Ringing Station between June and November, and over ten at Fountains Abbey in February.

V.C. 65: Common around Richmond, Leyburn and Wensley where a pair reared young in a tree used successfully in 1984. Occurs regularly at Gunnerside Gill.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Apparently maintains its breeding numbers being widespread in all deciduous and mixed woodlands. Eight pairs in a small area at Worsbrough.

Birds probably of the nominate race *C.f. familiaris* at Flamborough on 26th January, and on seven days between 24th October and 9th November.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Two records at Spurn; one at the Warren on 4th June, and another flying south on 20th July.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

A good spring influx, a few in late summer, but rather low numbers in the autumn.

One at Filey on 8th May and another from 13th to 19th May. At Bempton five different individuals occurred between 13th and 15th May. Two at Flamborough on 14th May, and six on 15th. At Spurn one on 14th May; two on 15th, and a third which stayed to 23rd; one from 23rd to 25th May, and two on 26th. One at Kilnsea from 20th to 23rd May, and singles at Tophill Low Res. on 20th, and at Haverfield Ponds on 25th.

One at Spurn on 4th and 5th July, and another on 31st July, and one at Kilnsea on 1st August.

Singles at Flamborough on 24th August; at Kilnsea from 15th to 17th September, and at Spurn on 22nd September.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

One at Norton to 3rd January had been present in late December 1984. One at Hornsea on 6th January, and probably the same at the Mere on 20th January and 17th February.

Singles at Marr, Doncaster on 26th March; in the Gouthwaite area on 31st March; at Spurn on 5th April, and at Wentworth from 9th to 13th April.

One on Thorne Moors from 26th October to 24th November.

Singles at Dacre Banks on 3rd November; at Bewerley on 7th December; at Skipwith Common on 19th, and in Bransdale on 27th December.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Only a few singles noted at coastal sites.

Higher counts at inland sites, with during the early months, 14 at Adel Dam on 20th January, and at Strensall Common on 7th February; 11 at Cunning Corner, Rishworth on 15th April, and 15 at Thorpe Marsh during the winter months.

17 at Sprotbrough on 27th August; 30 at Chapeltown, Sheffield on 5th October, and 16 at Frickley Park on 20th.

Maggie *Pica pica*

Although reported as increasing in suburban areas in much of V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 particularly Doncaster, Barnsley, Leeds and Bradford, flock and roost numbers were similar to, or less than, recent years.

In the early months 50 to 60 at Rivelin Valley (Sheffield), Thrybergh Tip, Chellow Dene (Bradford), Flamborough (16th February), Barwick-in-Elmet and Blackmoorfoot Res. 152 at Esholt S.W. on 22nd February.

Autumn maxima of about 50 at Thornhill, Cawthorne and Carlton (Barnsley); 67 at Ardsley Res. on 16th November, and 86 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd December.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Few really large counts reported due to difficulties experienced in making accurate estimates of the large mixed flocks of Jackdaw and Rook, *C. frugilegus*.

1,000 at Leven Carrs on 25th January; 5,000 at Hornsea Mere on 1st December, and 1,400 at Aughton on 26th December.

Flocks of 400 to 700 at Wilsic, Wadworth Carr, and Tophill Low in the early months, and at Ben Rhydding, Spofforth, Knaresborough Ringing Station, Stainton, Owston Wood and Tophill Low near the year-end.

Four appeared on British Gas Platform 47/3B off Withernsea on 30th October. The last departed on 30th December.

Passage at Flamborough peaked in late October, with 170 on 24th and 350 on 29th, these all being pale-naped birds presumably of the Continental race, *C.m. monedula*.

Four pairs nested on a high tension electricity pylon at Melbourne near Pocklington.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

The largest flocks reported were 6,000 at Leven Carrs on 25th January; up to 4,000 roosting at St. Ives, Bingley, and 2,000 in Parlington Park in both winters; 5,000 that included a small proportion of Jackdaw, *C. monedula* at Winterset on 4th September; 2,500 at Hornsea Mere on 23rd November, and 9,000 going over Tophill Low Res. on 15th December.

A rookery of 49 nests on a large high tension electricity pylon west of Stocksbridge.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

A roost in the Longwood Valley, Huddersfield held 160 on 9th February, and 180 on 24th November. Only two other large flocks in the early months: 70 at Shipley on 4th March, and 68 at Whitley Common on 10th.

Spring and autumn passage noted at Flamborough, with peaks of 70 on 12th and 14th May; 130 on 24th October, and 58 on 9th November.

Autumn counts at inland sites, some of which would be of passage birds, included 100 at Thorpe Marsh from late August into September; 55 at Eccup on 18th September; 54 at Sunk Island on 12th October; and on 20th October, 40 at Wheldrake Ings and 31 at Tophill Low Res.; 60 on Thorne Moors on 24th November, and 72 at Fairburn Ings on 1st December.

Birds showing characteristics of Hooded Crow, *C. c. cornix* again showed a slight increase on the previous year's numbers.

Singles during January at Pugney's G.P., Hornsea, Harewood Park (until 18th March) and Fairburn Ings, and during February at Carnaby and Weel Tip, and during March at Blacktoft Sands, in most cases only present on one date. Singles at Spurn on four dates in March and April, and at Flamborough on seven dates between 17th March and 4th May, then two on 27th May, and singles during this period also at Withernsea, Filey, Cayton Carrs and Ravenscar.

One at Fairburn Ings on 3rd August.

Four on British Gas Platform 47/3B off Withernsea on 16th October (AAJ).

Two at Flamborough on 24th and 29th October, and singles on seven other dates by 27th December. Singles at Spurn on 21st and 24th October, and 2nd November. Singles during the last two months at Hornsea, Saltend, Sunk Island, Weel Tip, Barmston, Duncroft Tip and Ossett Spa S.F.

Raven *Corvus corax*

One near Langsett from 24th February into early March (JL, DJS *et al*), and one near Gouthwaite Res. on 30th March (AO'N).

One at Flamborough on 22nd October (PAL).

Sightings of two at Leighton on 2nd November; at Fountains Fell on 13th, and at Ingleborough on 27th November (per BS).

One on Great Whernside on 17th November (KM).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Roosts of 20,000 at Farnham G.P. on 23rd June, and at Pulfin Bog on 15th July. 10,000 at Thorp Arch during the winter and at Saltend in August and September.

50,000 roosted at Thorp Arch from January into March, but at the year-end only 5,500 were at this site (RW-S).

150,000 roosting at West Tanfield on 17th November.

The roost at Blacktoft Sands held 30,000 on 9th October; 40,000 on 9th November, but only 5,000 on 21st August and 1st December.

Smaller roosts and flocks of 3,000 to 5,000 at Worsbrough on 14th June; Ingbirchworth on 14th August; Aldwarke S.F. on 24th September; Sheffield Cathedral on 14th November and Hillsbrough Park on 23rd, and at a few other localities.

Numbers at Spurn generally lower than in recent years with no large numbers of juveniles in summer and no late summer roost at Kilnsea.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

A further reduction in numbers at Spurn where autumn passage only totalled 282 on 13 days.

The Thrybergh Res. area had 400 on 11th July; up to 600 in August; 720 on 2nd September, and 450 on 1st October. 420 at Beighton on 1st September. Flocks of 500 at Filey in August, and at Saltend.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

A decline in numbers reported from many areas including Sheffield, Huddersfield, Blacktoft and Spurn, and in several areas in V.C. 64 including Harrogate.

Flocks in January of 150 at Cockersdale (Pudsey) on 4th, and at Dunnington Common on 9th, and of 50 to 60 at Denaby Ings, Pugney's G.P., Stamford Bridge, Wilsic and Micklethorn Ings, and of 80 at Sprotbrough Flash. 150 at Pebley Pond on 10th February, and 97 going to roost at Knapton on 21st.

Autumn passage at Spurn was very low, with only 286 during October and of these, 84 on 8th and 85 on 9th. 80 east at Sunk Island on 28th September, and 60 at Flamborough on 26th October. 150 at Cockersdale on 24th November, and 100 on 26th December; 80 at Hutton Conyers on 23rd October; 280 at Fairburn Ings, and 60 off Harewood Avenue on 24th November.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Substantial flocks in January of 500 at Aireville Park, Skipton on 8th and 9th; 300 at Langcliffe Hall near Settle on 13th, and at Luddenden Dean that remained in the area into March. Also in January, 164 going to a Beverley roost on 7th; 110 at Dunnington Common on 9th; 125 at Cannon Hall on 27th, and over 100 roosting regularly at Spenfield, Headingley. During February flocks of 200 at Studley Royal on 11th; Hookstone Wood on 14th, and White Hills, Skipton on 25th; of 150 at Ringinglow on 3rd, and Glasshouses on 10th, and 250 at Lotherton Hall on 26th. Flocks in March of 277 at Bretton Park on 9th; 350 on the moorland fringe near Redmires Res. on 13th, and 100 at Thrybergh Tip on 24th.

Some southerly movement at Spurn peaked with 160 on 30th March, and 106 on 1st April, but autumn numbers were low. At Flamborough 130 on 23rd, and 140 on 27th October, whilst at inland sites the highest count was at Redmires Res. on 20th October with 504 passing in two hours.

250 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 8th September; 350 at Eccup on 10th October; 300 to 400 at Upper Midhope in the second half of November; 150 at Skipwith Common on 19th December; 300 on Eccup Moor on 28th, and 200 in the Moss Valley on 30th December.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Numbers in the early months were quite low, but peaked with return passage in late March and early April. Substantial autumn passage at coastal sites, and year-end flocks larger than in 1984.

150 near Broomhead Res. on 17th January, 300 at Feldon Ranges on 16th February, and 50 to 60 at Lotherton Hall in January; at Ringinglow on 3rd February; at Castle Howard on 10th, and Strines on 23rd, which increased to 100 in March; then 60 at Mickletown on 24th March, and 100 at Digley on 25th. A flock of 400 on Otley Chevin on 5th April, and 300 there the following day.

Single figures at a few places in late April; the last single at Sand Hutton on 9th May, and one to four at Spurn up to 23rd.

Two at Fairburn Ings on 4th September, and single figures at few other places during the month, but no real influx until mid October. Passage counts at Flamborough from 22nd to 27th October were as follows: 65, 235, 86, 188, 374 and 545 respectively. Numbers at Spurn peaked in the same period with 180 on 23rd and 26th, 69 on 24th and 40 on 27th.

Also during October, 133 logged at Thrybergh mainly flying over; 92 west at Redmires Res. on 14th; flocks of 50 at Studfold near Settle on 22nd, and at Easington on 26th, and of 80 at Tophill Low Res. on 26th, Malham Tarn on 27th, and at Horton-in-Ribblesdale on 28th.

At least 450 at Harden Res. on 9th November; 50 at Lotherton on 27th; 150 at Upper Midhope on 29th November, and 120 on 27th December; 70 at Parlington Park on 27th November, and 80 at Aughton on 15th December.

Serín *Serinus serinus*

A male at Flamborough on 13th June (PAL), and one flew south over Spurn on 1st August (NAB).

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

A flock of 50 at Austwick on 5th January was high for the Settle area during the winter months. Flocks of 125 at Saltend on 3rd, and Riccall on 26th January, and of 100 to 120 at Barton-le-Willows on 23rd February, and 9th March, and at Redmires Res. on 13th March. 200 at Esholt S. W. on 23rd March, and 90 in a flock at Harewood as late as 9th May.

Believed to be declining in the Doncaster area both as a breeding and wintering species, but status elsewhere apparently normal.

Autumn passage at Spurn quite modest, with maxima of 155 on 31st October, and 157 on 7th November. A flock of 108 at Saltend on 19th October increased to 156 by 3rd November. Other flocks near the coast were at Aldborough, with 150 on 15th December, and at Barmston with 120 on 19th.

Good numbers at inland sites, with 150 in the Ribble Valley on 28th September, and 500

at Thrybergh Tip during October. During November 420 at Bentley Grange on 9th; 200 each at North Stainley on 11th, and at Broadstones on 16th; and 250 at Eccup Res. on 15th. In December, on 15th 110 at Aughton, and 170 at Keswick Fitts, and on 29th 125 at Ross Carrs, and 200 at Brodsworth Quarry.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Few flocks of any size in the early months. 60 at Fairburn Ings on 16th January; 50 at Alverley, Doncaster on 27th January, and 70 at Potteric Carr on 19th March, were the largest before two pre-breeding season flocks on 14th April of 180 at Yearsley Moor and 120 at Haw Park.

Southerly passage at Spurn in spring of 1,054 during May including 500 on 16th, and in autumn 1,144 during October.

Late summer and autumn flocks, some of which were of passage birds, were widely reported, and during September and October 50 to 70 were at Sunk Island, Cherry Cobb, Tophill Low Res., Flamborough, Riccall, Walmgate Stray, Fairburn Ings, Thrybergh Tip, Thorpe Marsh, Aldwarke, Edderthorpe, Carlton Marsh and Runley Bridge (near Settle).

Up to 100 at Wincobank, Sheffield in late September; 160 in the Wath and Broomhill area on 2nd October; 170 at North Duffield Carrs on 8th; an increase to 167 at Fairburn Ings by 13th October, and 86 still there on 18th December. Finally 60 at East Ardsley on 15th December.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

A quite incredible year for in addition to an exceptional increase in substantial flocks in the early months, and a spread to a few new breeding sites there was a considerable influx in late June and July, before a heavy autumn passage, and finally a good number of large winter flocks.

During the first two months flocks of 50 to 75 were in Swaledale and the York area, and two flocks each in the North Yorkshire Moors, V.C. 63 and V.C. 64. Flocks of about 100 each at Broomhead Res. on 20th January; at Scrayingham on 5th February; at Langsett on 10th February, and at Lindley Wood Res. on 26th January, which increased to 250 by 7th February. 160 at Yateholme on 17th February, and 80 on 24th. 250 at Low Dalby on 21st February. On Yearsley Moor a flock of 150 on 9th March declined to 120 by 1st April, and to 60 by 7th April, but included many singing males and a pair were located there on 27th April.

A large breeding population at Newton Dale between 2nd May and 14th June (HOB). Also bred at Langsett; in Derwentdale along the Derbyshire boundary; at three other now regular sites in South Yorkshire, and possibly at Grenoside, and one pair bred at Parlington Park near Leeds.

35 flying north at Bampton on 6th June may have been part of the influx, but by late June small numbers were moving over several localities, and 30 were at Lofthouse, Nidderdale on 30th. Parties of ten to 20 at a few lowland sites during July. 19 at Flamborough on 6th July. Small numbers at Spurn early in July then 24 on 18th; 96 on 19th; 18 on 20th; 31 on 21st, and 11 on 23rd mostly moving south. 30 at Riccall on 18th July; 100 at Summerbridge from 20th July into September, and 40 at Birdsall on 17th August.

Southerly passage at Spurn totalled 943 from early September to mid November, including peaks of 68 on 17th September, and 96 on 7th October. Good numbers at Flamborough, with in September, 69 on 22nd and 80 on 25th, and in October 108 on 24th; 190 on 26th, and 155 on 27th. Other counts that were high for September of 200 in Adel Woods then on 22nd, 63 at Saltend and 185 at Cherry Cobb, and on 30th, 40 in Swaledale.

Autumn and early-winter flocks of 25 to 100, although not unusual, were widely reported from all vice-counties in some 26 localities mainly during November and December. In addition larger flocks of 151 at High Batts on 20th October; 200 at Parlington Park on 23rd; 100 at Knaresborough Ringing Station from October to the year-end; 150 at Bretton Park on 6th, and 170 on 29th November and 100 on 30th December; 150 at Saltaire on 29th November and 160 in the Moss Valley on 30th December. Passage at Thrybergh from July onwards totalled 230 including 71 south-east on 6th December.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Few flocks of any size in the early months apart from 150 at Ravenfield Park on 19th February. An increase in numbers in the early spring as birds returned to breeding locations. 160 at Denaby Ings in mid March; 400 at Potteric Carr on 5th April, and 200 still there on 21st; also during April 100 to 150, at Esholt S.W. on 13th; at Ardsley Res. on 20th; at Huddingley on 24th, and at Riccall on 28th. 180 at Nosterfield on 4th May.

Spring passage at Spurn totalled 2,969 during April and May, including 1,000 on 6th May, and during the autumn totalled 8,399 from August to November, with peaks of 781 on 30th September, and 1,300 on 5th October. Numbers at Flamborough were not high apart from 320 on 22nd, and 400 on 25th September.

Recorded passing Sunk Island during the autumn the highest counts being on 22nd September, 289 east and 154 west; on 28th September, 662 east and 88 west, and on 12th October, 281 east and 47 west.

The largest autumn flocks were in late September, and by far the largest was a flock of 1,100 at South Elmsall Quarry on 24th, and flocks of 250 were at Broomhill Quarry on 24th; at Farnham G.P. on 26th and at Midhopestones on 29th.

The flocks in the later months were mostly in lowland localities and numbered no more than 100 birds each.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

More records in the winter months in both periods, in particular from inland locations, than usual.

Numbers in these parities were usually only in single figures, but 60 were at Denholme on 17th January. At Fairburn Ings 21 went south on 24th November, and a flock of 42 was present from 27th to 31st December.

The return to breeding localities began on 9th March, and by early April they were well distributed in V.C. 63 and V.C. 64. 34 at March Haigh west of Huddersfield on 18th April was the largest flock.

Only five autumn flocks of more than 50 near breeding areas, and these were: 180 on Malham Moor on 6th August; 100 on Sutton Moor on 9th August; 50 at Greenhow on 7th September; 70 at Digley on 27th September, and 108 at Broadstones on 10th October.

32 at Muker on 17th September, and one at West Stonesdale on 25th, are indications that the species is present in Swaledale contrary to earlier information.

Some passage at Spurn, but numbers low apart from 44 south on 18th October, and 40 north-west on 28th November. More than usual at Flamborough during the autumn, with 37 on 26th October and 17th November; 86 on 18th November; 41 on 14th, and 23 on 27th December.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Flocks in the early months were larger, and located more frequently, than those in 1984.

During January 100 each at Howell Wood on 1st, Eccup on 8th, and Honley on 24th. 220 at Langsett on 13th February. Over 200 at Yateholme from 19th February to 10th March, and 120 still there on 21st April, and a flock of 200 at Lindley Wood on 28th February was down to 130 on 21st March. Flocks of 100 at Parlington Park, Wykeham Forest and Brayton Barff, and 90 at Upper Helmsley during March. 160 on Thorne Moors on 9th April, and 120 near Gouthwaite Res. on 27th.

Breeding populations were good particularly in the north of the county. 13 pairs bred near Tophill Low Res.

Autumn passage at Spurn totalled 2,654 in September and October, with 831 on 9th October. 160 moved east past Sunk Island on 12th and 13th October.

Autumn and early winter flocks of 50 to 100 at eight localities, and 110 at Rivelin Hagg on 14th October; 100 at Tophill Low Res. on 18th and 27th October, and 130 at Riccall on 29th December.

The good influx in autumn 1984 of birds showing the characteristics of Mealy Redpoll, *C.f. flammea* led to reports from many localities in the early months, and a further influx of reasonable numbers followed in the autumn.

Small numbers of from one to eight at about 20 locations in V.C. 61, V.C. 63 and V.C. 64 on various dates up to early April, and regularly at Spurn, with the last there on 17th May. 11 between Cherry Cobb and Stone Creek on 11th January. 12 each at Almsford End and Knarborough Ringing Station on 25th and 26th January respectively, with ten at the latter site on 3rd February, and smaller numbers on other days. Approximately half of the large flock at Langsett on 13th February were considered to be of this race, and more than 20 were at Yateholme in February and March.

During the autumn the influx was very apparent at Spurn, where after singles on 1st and 10th November the main arrival took place with 43 on 20th; 66 on 21st; 94 on 22nd; 72 on 23rd, and 90 on 24th, after which numbers had declined to three by 9th December, although 14 flew south on 14th. Some had appeared earlier at Flamborough, with 12 on 28th September, and 15 on 12th October, and later 15 at Filey on 22nd November.

Reports of parties of up to six at ten inland sites mainly during December, in which month 25 were at York University on 15th, and 17 were at Riccall on 29th.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

One at Knarborough Ringing Station on 26th and 27th January and 3rd February (JRM, IPFO, PTT), and one at Old Denaby from 18th February to 9th March (NWA, JL *et al*).

A male at Spurn on 20th November (JC, BRS) died on 21st, and the skin is now in the J. R. Mather collection.

The above three records were accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Records of a further four individuals showing characteristics of this species were one at Knarborough on 25th April, and at Spurn one on 20th and 21st November; one from 21st to 23rd; one from 21st to 24th, and another on 24th November all of which were not considered acceptable by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee, but are published here as reference for future reviews.

Decisions have not yet been concluded for single birds at Spurn on 14th and 17th January; at Heslington from 28th to 30th January; at Almsford Bank, Harrogate on 23rd March, and at Saltend, Hull on 25th November.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Only small numbers reported in the early months, and few breeding records, but a considerable invasion in late June and July was heralded by a few arrivals in late May. These birds of Continental origin were recorded in many parts of the country particularly in eastern counties.

Small numbers of less than ten at Malham Tarn, Stainborough and Gouthwaite in the early months. Possible breeding locations included Yearsley, with a maximum of nine on 9th April; Dalby Forest, five on 7th April; Rosedale, birds at two sites in late May; Strines; Ewden Valley; Langsett, a singing male on 17th March, and Deffer Wood, a family party of six on 1st June.

31 flew south at Bampton on 28th May, and may have been part of the invasion as may a flock of over 100 at Newtondale on 14th June, but the latter is not certain as this is near to good breeding areas, and in addition to the large flock there were several smaller parties, including one obvious family group. On 27th June, 22 at Timble; on 28th, 27 at Barden and 21 at Langsett; on 29th, ten over High Batts; on 30th, 30 at Hebers Ghyll, Ilkley, 80 at Yateholme and 18 in the Little Don Valley. Small numbers at about 15 other localities mainly in July. Larger flocks in July on 2nd, 25 at Haw Park, 60 at Otley Chevin and 22 at Strensall; on 3rd, 13 at Healaugh (V.C. 65) and 30 at Newtondale; on 5th, 12 at Burton Constable; on 9th, 20 at Yateholme; on 13th, 40 in the Little Don Valley, and on 18th, 25 at Lindley Wood. 55 at Wymingbrook on 1st August, and 19 at Haw Park on 6th, and small numbers at four other localities during August.

Very few reported during September, but some obvious coastal movement during October included at least 40 over Osgodby on 2nd; ten at Wheatcroft, Scarborough on 4th; 17 south at Spurn on 10th, and eight at Flamborough on 27th. Recorded at four other lowland sites during October, but most records of flocks were in upland valleys containing coniferous woodlands.

40 at Rivelin Dam on 1st October, and 35 at Redmires Res. on 26th. 20 at Lastingham on 9th November; 22 at Broomhead on 16th, and 28 in the Little Don Valley during November and December. Flocks of 27 and 30 at Barden on 17th November, and 20 on 30th December. During December 32 at Gouthwaite Res. on 15th, and 40 on 22nd, and 30 at Bransdale on 28th.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Breeding widespread throughout the county, with more flocks of over 20 reported than in any of the last five years.

22 at Denaby Ings on 27th January, and over 30 at Thorpe Marsh in January and February, and 20 there in October. 31 at High Batts on 20th October, and 20 on 26th, when 22 were at Fairburn Ings. 20 at Hornsea Mere during the winter months, and 25 at Skipwith Common on 19th December.

A leucistic male at Knarborough Ringing Station on 27th September and 5th October.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Northern race *P.p. pyrrhula*, were single males at Spurn on 23rd, and at Flamborough on 26th October.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

V.C. 61: Seven at Scrayingham on 5th February and two on 31st December. Singles at Fulford on 24th February, and at Crambeck on 11th May. Two at Hessle on 29th May and 1st June, and one on 17th June. Singles at Flamborough on 23rd and 26th October.

V.C. 62: Three at Commendale on 28th February, and a family party of four there on 9th June. One at Upper Helmsley between 26th February and 7th March. Three at Yearsley on 9th March and 17th April, six on 14th and five on 16th March, and one on 17th November. Singles at Sand Hutton on 4th and 16th April, and three on 17th. At Castle Howard three on 28th April, one on 8th June, and two on 3rd November and 20th December. Two in the Forge Valley on 30th May, and in Sleightholmedale on 23rd June.

V.C. 63: Occurred at 18 sites of which 11 were in the Doncaster area, mostly in parties of one to three on dates throughout the year. 17 at Roche Abbey in March, and 12 on 1st April, and ten at Woolley Woods on 11th December. Two pairs each bred at two Doncaster sites, and one Sheffield site.

V.C. 64: One to two at Fairburn Ings on eight dates. In the Leeds area eight at one site on 24th March, where a breeding attempt failed, and one to four at three more sites from March to May. A maximum at Fountains Abbey of 43 on 10th February, where there were at least three pairs in May. One to three at five other localities in the Harrogate area, and six at Bishops Monkton on 10th March. One at Bishopthorpe on 16th February and two on 20th June.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

One to three at Spurn and Kilnsea from January to the last on 29th April, apart from nine on 27th January. One to six in the Barmston and Fraisthorpe area in the early months, and singles at Flamborough on 25th January, and Blacktoft Sands on 5th February. One at Filey on 16th May.

One at Easington on 25th August, then frequently there and at Kilnsea and Spurn from 23rd September through October with a maximum of four. Occasionally at Spurn during the last two months, with a maximum of five in November.

At Filey two on 25th and nine on 27th September, then more regularly from 6th November, with four on 17th, and maxima in December of seven on 28th, and five on 31st. Frequently at Flamborough after one on 14th September until well into November, including during October: five on 22nd; six on 24th and 28th and seven on 26th, and in November, 19 on 9th and eight on 16th, then one on 14th and two on 28th December. Four at Grimston on 17th and five on 24th November. The Barmston and Fraisthorpe area had small numbers until mid December then an increase to 16 on 20th, and 34 on 28th.

Birds appeared at sites along the Humber, with one at Stone Creek on 22nd September and eight on 8th December; two at Paull on 13th October, and at Blacktoft Sands singles on eight dates between 8th October and 11th December.

One at Leyburn Flatts on 17th November (DIF), and one at Riccall Ings in late 1984 remained until 27th January (PP).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

V.C. 61: Present regularly during the early months at Filey, Flamborough, Barmston and Spurn, with maxima on 17th January of 80 at Filey and 12 at Flamborough, and at the other sites nine at Spurn on 14th February, and 14 at Barmston. Up to four at Broomfleet to 15th January, and singles at Hornsea and Saltend, two in the Lower Derwent, and up to eight at Aldbrough in the early winter.

Fairly regularly at Spurn during the autumn, with 42 on 17th and 60 on 24th November, and 25 on 29th and 28 on 30th December. Maxima in the Barmston and Fraisthorpe area of 40 on 23rd November, and 49 on 28th December. 55 at Filey on 9th November and 76 on 16th, and 55 flew north off-shore on 15th December. 25 at Cherry Cobb on 17th November, and small numbers at Flamborough and Saltend during the autumn.

V.C. 62: Eight in Wykeham Forest during January, and eight at Burniston on 17th March. 40 at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 1st December, one to three at three other coastal sites, and three at East Bilsdale on 11th November, and one in Bransdale on 18th December.

V.C. 63: One near Ingbirchworth on 1st January, and five at Whitley Common that remained until at least 3rd February when eight were present. Four on Langsett Moors from 2nd to 19th January. Singles at Queensbury and Broomhead Moor in January, and at Pugney's G.P. in February. Two west at Blacktoft Sands on 14th January, where in the autumn singles on 9th October, 18th and 21st November, and two on 1st December.

Singles over Langsett on 10th November; at Winterset Res. on 16th, and over Wath Colliery on 17th.

V.C. 64: Singles at Castleberg on 1st, and Brownside on 2nd January (Settle area), Lawkland Fell on 17th, and Great Whernside on 2nd February. Three at Eccup Res. on 1st March.

Singles over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 26th October and at Hay-a-Park on 18th November, and seven between Starbotton and Buckden Pike on 29th December.

Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*

A male at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 6th April (PTT) was with a flock of Yellowhammers *E. citrinella*.

The first record for the county and the eighth for Britain.

Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Flocks of 90 to 120 during January at Potteric Carr, Thorpe Marsh, Wilsic, Fryston and in the Moss Valley, and a vast flock of 450 at Pebley Pond on the Derbyshire border on 20th January. 300 at Horner and 100 at Pulfin Bog on 3rd February, and smaller flocks of 50 to 80 in the York, Richmond and Bradford areas in that month. 100 on Thorne Moors on 17th April, and 150 in Parlington Park in both winters.

Some passage at Flamborough, with 117 on 28th September. A flock of 120 at Frickley in October, but all other large flocks were during December, with 200 each at Compton, Collingham and Beverley (10th); 150 at Carlton Marsh (19th), and 100 each at Hay-a-Park (18th), at Minsthorpe, Doncaster (28th), and on Eccup Moor (29th).

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

A female at Aike near Tophill Low on 17th May (BR).

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Singles at Flamborough on 13th May, 28th September and 10th October (PAL *et al*); at Spurn on 15th May, from 24th to 26th August (PVI *et al*) and on 23rd September, and at Fairburn Ings on 9th June (SPD).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

A female at Filey Dams on 11th and 12th May (HJW, PJD *et al*), and another female at Spurn from 12th to 15th May (PS, BRS *et al*).

Both records accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

A male at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 22nd April (PTT, JRM, DRJW *et al*). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

One at Flamborough from 22nd to 27th October (AMA, DGH *et al*). Not yet submitted to *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

One at Southfield Res. on 23rd November (TR, KL).

Not accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

More than usual noted in suburban gardens during hard weather in January and February, particularly in Sheffield and Knaresborough.

53 at Spurn on 2nd January, and maxima of southerly autumn passage there of 134 on 27th September, and 83 on 8th October.

39 pairs bred at Fairburn Ings, 25 pairs at Mickletown Ings, and about 150 pairs at Blacktoft Sands, and at Tophill Low Res. 28 pairs, an increase of ten on 1984.

Only about 100 roosted at Blacktoft Sands in both winters, which is half the 1984 figure.

60 at Sunk Island on 17th November; 80 at Fairburn Ings on 19th December, and 50 at Bentley Grange and Gorple Flask during December.

Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps*

One male frequented gardens on the north side of the town at Hornsea from 9th to 16th November (MJS).

The possibility of this being an escape cannot be ruled out.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

In the early months flock sizes were much smaller than in 1984 being two of about 40 near York; five of 40 to 75 in V.C. 63, and one of 62 at Fairburn Ings on 24th February. The only larger counts were 110 roosting at Blacktoft Sands during a cold spell on 25th January; 90 at Spurn during January, and 100 at Potteric Carr on 8th March.

Slightly higher numbers at the year-end with over 200 at Cherry Cobb on 30th November, and over 100 each at Atwick, Cowden, Flamborough and Filey.

The Need for Field Descriptions

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication, and where appropriate forwarded to *British Birds* for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field, before reference to any text books, the locality, date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, distance from the bird, period of observation, species present for comparison if any, and previous experience of the species. Forms based upon those accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any of the species listed below.

Uncommon and Difficult Species

Great Northern Diver	Pomarine Skua
Black-throated Diver	Long-tailed Skua
Slavonian Grebe	Mediterranean Gull
Black-necked Grebe	Iceland Gull
Cory's Shearwater	Sabine's Gull
Great Shearwater	Roseate Tern
Storm Petrel	Black Guillemot
Leach's Petrel	Woodlark
Purple Heron	Richard's Pipit
White Stork	Tawny Pipit
Bean Goose	Bluethroat
Red-crested Pochard	Cetti's Warbler
Ferruginous Duck	Savi's Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Aquatic Warbler
Red Kite	Marsh Warbler
Montagu's Harrier	Icterine Warbler
Goshawk	Melodious Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Barred Warbler
Golden Eagle	Yellow-browed Warbler
Hobby	Firecrest
Spotted Crake	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Stone Curlew	Golden Oriole
Kentish Plover	Chough
Temminck's Stint	Raven
Pectoral Sandpiper	Serin
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Scarlet Rosefinch
Red-necked Phalarope	Cirl Bunting
Grey Phalarope	Ortolan Bunting

British Birds Rarities

A complete list of species, descriptions of which are required by *British Birds* before publication in the annual Report on rare birds in Great Britain, was last published in *British Birds*, Vol. 67, 1974, pages 347–8, but note that ten species were removed from this list at the end of 1982, see *British Birds*, Vol. 75, 1982, pages 337–8.

Races and other unusual occurrences

The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of rare well-defined races of common species, or to support records of migrant birds seen out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

Local Reports

The following local society and club reports for 1985 have been received, and those readers requiring more detailed information on the areas concerned should consult these.

- V.C. 61: *Filey Brigg Ornithological Group*
Spurn Bird Observatory
- V.C. 61, 62 and 64: *York Ornithological Club*
- V.C. 63: *Barnsley and District Bird Study Group*
Doncaster and District Ornithological Society
Halifax Scientific Society
Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club
Rotherham Naturalists' Society
Sheffield Bird Study Group
Wakefield Naturalists' Society
- V.C. 64: *Bradford Naturalists' Society*
Casileford and District Naturalists' Society
Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve
Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society
Leeds Birdwatchers' Club
Settle Bird Club

Reports were received from Bempton Cliffs, Flamborough Ornithological Group, Hornsea Mere, Saltend and Hull Docks and Tophill Low Reservoir in V.C. 61, Scarborough Field Naturalists' in V.C. 62, Blacktoft Sands, Pugney's Gravel Pit, Winterset Reservoir and Anglers Lake and Wath Ings in V.C. 63, and from East Leeds Bird Study Group and Mickletown Ings in V.C. 64.

List of contributors whose initials appear in the classified list (with apologies for any omissions). The co-operation of these observers and many others who submitted records to their local societies is very much appreciated.

N. W. Addey; G. E. Alderson; A. M. Allport; P. Antrobus; R. H. Appleby; A. Archer; P. A. Ardron; B. Armitage; J. S. Armitage; R. N. Arnfield; Miss J. E. Atkinson; D. J. Bacon; T. J. Barker; M. Barnett; J. M. Bayldon; R. Beatham; D. Beaumont; J. Beaumont; P. Beaver; J. Bell; M. V. Bell; N. A. Bell; E. M. Bennett; G. R. Bennett; A. W. Benton; I. Beverage; C. Bielby; C. Bintlcliffe; A. Botterill; K. R. Bowman; P. N. Bradbury; P. Bradley; P. Briglin; P. Brill; R. A. Broad; S. Brooking; D. Bryant; S. Bryant; H. O. Bunce; P. Burke; A. S. Butler; P. J. Carlton; G. Carr; G. M. Carr; M. Carr; P. Carr; G. P. Catley; K. Clarkson; T. M. Clegg; S. Chippendale; E. W. Clubley; S. Cochran; P. Cook; M. Cooper; B. Copley; T. I. Corbett; M. Corner; P. W. Coupland; J. R. Court; J. Cudworth; D. M. Curran; W. F. Curtis; D. B. Cutts; G. Dale; J. E. Dale; J. M. Dale; R. L. Dale; J. Dawson; V. Degerelle; H. Dennington; M. C. Dennis; S. Denny; M. L. Denton; L. G. Dewdney; R. F. Dickens; J. C. Dinsdale; T. E. Dixon; G. E. Dobbs; T. Dolan; P. Dove; K. Drummond; W. Dudhill; S. P. Dudley; D. Duff; P. J. Dunn; T. A. Ede; S. Elliott; T. M. England; R. Evison; B. Fendley; T. Feltham; G. T. Foggitt; G. W. Follows; D. Forbes; I. Forsyth; D. I. Fotherby; C. H. Fletcher; R. Firth; M. Francis; T. French; S. W. Gale; J. Gandy; Mrs S. Gear; K. H. Gerhardson; A. Gillyon; J. Graves; J. Glendinning; K. Good; C. Gorman; W. Gott; K. R. Gould; R. Greasley; R. Gregory; A. Grieve; S. Grover; M. J. Grunwell; Mrs M. Gulliver; R. Gulliver; A. G. Hall; R. C. Hart; S. J. Hayhow; M. Henry; P. Harrison; D. Herringshaw; J. Hewitt; L. S. Higgins; C. Hind; D. G. Hobson; T. L. Hobson; J. S. Holland; S. H. Holliday; S. Holloway; P. I. Holt; A. M. Hopkinson; R. H. Hopper; J. Hornbuckle; C. Horne; D. E. Horrabin; J. D. Horrabin; D. Hursthouse; P. Hutchinson; P. V. Irving; T. Isherwood; E. Jackson; S. L. James; A. Johnson; C. G. Johnson; N. Kerwin; P. Kirk; E. Kwater; R. P. Lambe; J. C. Lamplough; P. A. Lassey; J. Law; J. H. Lawton; M. Leakey; G. Lee; P. Leonard; A. Lewis; M. Limbert; S. M. Lister; V. A. Lister; M. D. Lloyd; P. Love; J. Lunn; R. Lyon; J. D. Malkin; Mrs E. A. Martin; J. Martin; J. I. Martin; A. Marshall; C. Massingham; Mrs J. Massingham; J. R. Mather; J. McLoughlin; D. B. Mentz; P. A. Meredith; A. J. Morris; P. R. Morris; K. Mudd; D. E. Murray; M. G. Neal; F. Nendrick; F. Oates; D. J. Odell; D. Oldham; A. O'Neill; I. P. F. Owens; D. Page; J. Palliser; N. Parker; R. J. Parrish; B. S. Pashby; Mrs S. Pashby; D. M. Pearce; J. M. Pearson; K. H. Pearson; M. Pearson; N. A. Pearson; B. G. Pepper; J. Pewtress; H. Pickering; M. J. Pilsworth; J. M. Pinder; P. Piringer; D. Pogson; S. Pogson; J. A. Pollintine; B. Porter; A. R. Potter; D. Proctor; I. J. Proctor; J. Rawcliffe; Mrs M. Rawcliffe; K. Reeves; A. Rhodes; D. Rhodes; G. H. Rhodes; R. J. Rhodes; T. Rhodes; B. Richards; G. W. Richardson; T. Richardson; C. C. Robinson; S. J. Roddis; S. Root; K. Rotherham; T. Sargeson; P. M. Scanlon; R. J. Scott; T. Scott; M. C. Scrimshaw; J. Searle; M. J. Sewell; C. J. Sharpe; P. Shepherd; B. Shorrocks; G. B. Silver; D. J. Simpson; S. P. Singleton; C. Slator; D. M. Smith; P. Smith; W. H. Smith; J. R. Smithson; R. South; A. Speck; G. J. Speight; B. R. Spence; D. J. Standring; S. A. Stirrup; C. Straker; M. F. Stoyale; A. Teale; R. Temple; C. C. Thomas; N. Thoresby; J. Thornton; P. Thorpe; B. Townend; G. Toyce; P. T. Treloar; J. M. Turton; L. Tweedy; R. Twigg; C. Urquhart; C. G. Varty; H. Vilkatis; P. J. Vokes; K. Walker; A. J. Wallis; D. Walsh; J. Ward; J. C. Wardill; F. A. Wardman; D. M. Waddington; D. R. J. Watkins; F. J. Watson; D. Waudby; E. H. Wear; G. R. Welch; Mrs H. J. Welch; M. Wells; R. Wells; M. West; A. D. Westwood; H. J. Whitehead; N. P. Whitehouse; M. Whorley; J. Wilkinson; P. Wilkinson; M. D. Williams; R. D. R. Williams; C. Winn; S. Worwood; P. B. Wordsworth; P. M. Wright; A. Wrightson.

Future Reports

A timetable for the submission of records

Due to the very late publication of this report and that for 1984, in each case about twenty-seven months after the end of the year reviewed, the Committee has now had, very reluctantly, to agree that to maintain a regular timetable of publication the reports will, in future, be compiled and sent to the printers to a fixed timetable and records from any area or society not received on time will have to be omitted, with only significant records received late being mentioned in a subsequent report.

Our timetable has been agreed as follows:

All records to reach the appropriate V.C. Recorder by 31st March in the year following the year being reviewed, though recorders of local societies are advised to discuss with their own V.C. Recorder his own particular requirements.

The V.C. Recorders to provide the Editor with their integrated summaries of records received for their vice county by 31st July.

The Editor to present the manuscript of the completed report to the printers by 31st October.

This programme will enable us to circulate to members of the Union and to put on sale each report within twelve to fifteen months after the year being dealt with. If it will help you to help us we will be willing to pay for the photocopying of any manuscript report you may prepare before it goes to your printer.

Two other points should be mentioned. The first is that we have taken steps within our own committee to ensure this timetable is maintained and we seek your help in seeing that records reach us promptly and on time.

Secondly, we would like to stress again that we do encourage all observers to submit any records of birds for which a detailed description is requested by B.B.R.C. to this committee first, and to allow the appropriate V.C. Recorder to send the record on to B.B.R.C. This has two advantages. Firstly, it ensures that records of birds which can be shown to have been incorrectly identified do not become published as a 'rejection' in British Birds and, secondly, that records received by B.B.R.C. and known to be acceptable to this committee have every chance of being accepted for publication in British Birds.

We do, sincerely, look forward to your co-operation.

A. J. Wallis, Honorary Secretary

Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

Individuals interested in joining the Union should write to either the Administrative Officer, Mr D. Bramley or the Treasurer, Mr J. D. Hind.

Mr D. Bramley
c/o Doncaster Museum
Chequer Road
Doncaster, DN1 2AE

Mr J. D. Hind
12 Adel New Avenue
Adel
Leeds, LS16 6BE

Subscription rates for 1988 are :

Members	£6 per annum
Senior Citizens	£3 per annum

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION LIBRARIES



3 9088 01002 6086